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No Deal Reached in UAE-Iran Meeting on Islands

JN2211081895 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (WAKH)—A press statement issued on the results of a meeting of experts between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran revealed that the two sides failed to agree on an agenda for bilateral negotiations to settle their dispute over the three islands; namely, Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra and Abu-Musa.

EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY quoted Khalifah Shahin al-Mirri, head of the UAE delegation to the meeting, as saying that the UAE believes the Iranian delegation's failure to accept the required agenda caused the experts meeting to lose its terms of reference and the goal for which it was held.

The UAE renewed its appeal to the Islamic Republic of Iran to hammer out a peaceful settlement regarding the three disputed islands and to agree to have recourse to the International Court of Justice.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Peres Discuss Redeployment Over Phone

JN2111135395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a telephone call from Acting Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres this morning.

The telephone conversation focused on the latest developments in the peace process and the progress of redeployment in the rest of Palestinian cities.

International Observer Force Arrives in Janin

TA2211094295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of international observers has arrived in Janin. They will monitor the elections in the territories. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the observers have already began to supervise registration in the voters registrar.

Date Set for Israeli Evacuation From Qalqilyah

JN2111203895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Report by Na'im Suwaylim in Qalqilyah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli and Palestinian sides this evening concluded their coordination meeting at the headquarters of the Israeli Border Guard in the city of Qalqilyah. They discussed final arrangements for the evacuation of the occupation forces from the city of Qalqilyah.

The Palestinian side was represented by Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the National Security Forces in the West Bank; Brigadier General Ziyad al-Atrash, official in charge of the Palestinian-Israeli Joint Coordination Committee; Colonel Ribhi 'Arafat, official in charge of the Palestinian Liaison Committee in the West Bank; Colonel Abu-'Awr, commander of the National Security Forces in Qalqilyah; and Colonel Musa Jadallah, police commander in Qalqilyah Governorate.

The Israeli side was represented by Gabi Ofir, commander of the occupation forces in the West Bank; (Herzel Kesch), official in charge of the Israeli Coordination Committee; and other Israeli officers.

In a statement to the Jericho Voice of Palestine, Brig. Gen. al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr said:

[Begin recording] [Jabr] Arrangements for redeployment in Qalqilyah and Tulkarm areas were discussed.

[Suwaylim] Was there any agreement on the date of the redeployment?

[Jabr] Dates have been agreed upon, and both sides will observe them. The redeployment will take place in this area on 17 December.

[Suwaylim] When will it begin?

[Jabr] We will try to begin it early.

[Suwaylim] Will it begin on 26 November?

[Jabr] It may begin between the 26th and 28th. [end recording]

It is not certain that Palestinian liaison officers will enter Qalqilyah on 26 November. They will arrive in the city between 26 and 28 November, as Brig. Gen. al-Hajj 'Ima'il Jabr said.

'Urayqat Urges Jerusalemites To Vote in Elections

JN2111161895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and head of the Central Elections Committee, has invited Palestinian residents in occupied Jerusalem holding blue identity cards to register their names for the Palestinian legislative elections.

'Urayqat added that there is a high registration percentage in the city despite the fact that some people are skeptical about the registration. He stressed the importance of registration in the Jerusalem constituency in order to increase the number of its representatives in the Legislative Council.

Teachers and students at the al-Ibrahimiyah College, who were skeptical about registration, will register their names this week. Registration will continue until 2 December.

Al-Husayni on Elections, Normalization With Israel

TA2111183695 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 20 Nov 95 pp 1, 16

[Report by 'Abd-al-Raziq Abu-Jazr]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, has said that preparations for the Palestinian elections are proceeding in Jerusalem and the Palestinian census department is conducting a large-scale census in Jerusalem and is issuing voters lists.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, Faysal al-Husayni affirmed that he does not intend to run in these elections.

With regard to the tasks of the legislative council that will be elected, al-Husayni said that the elected council will deal with all domestic issues that concern the citizens. The council will not interfere in supreme political or crucial issues, which will remain the prerogative of the Palestine National Council. Al-Husayni expressed his fear of increasing attacks by the radical Israeli right-wing against Palestinian residents in general, and in Jerusalem in particular.

With regard to the arrests by the Israeli security agencies and their pursuit of Jewish extremists, al-Husayni said that these activities are below the required level and will not succeed in halting the extremists. It has been proved that wealthy, radical Jewish groups in the United States assist in the development of the extremist movement in Israel, the price for which was paid by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Regarding the seriousness of the dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], al-Husayni expressed his satisfaction at the continuation of the dialogue between the Palestinian brothers and considered it a healthy and constructive phenomenon. He said that competition between the two sides in the elections will serve them as well as all sectors of the Palestinian people.

Al-Husayni explained that the entry of Palestinian political forces into the electoral process will limit the impact of tribal forces on the results of these elections. He stressed that the PA has prepared the necessary requirements for Jerusalem which it will deliver to the supervisory committee that will visit the city. This committee was formed by the conference held in the United Arab Emirates to support holy Jerusalem, enhance it, and preserve its identity.

Concerning the rush by a number of Arab states to normalize their economic relations with Israel despite the fact that the Palestinians have not regained all their rights, al-Husayni emphasized that this a grave thing. The PA has explained to these countries that what has been achieved with Israel is not a complete peace but a rearrangement and reorganization of the negotiating process and that the Palestinians are now negotiating inside rather than outside the Palestinian territories. Al-Husayni said that Israel is presenting its political goods and is trying to enter Arab markets before the Palestinians regain all their legitimate rights. Al-Husayni anticipated that a clear breakthrough would occur on the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese track, especially since Israel has begun sensing the danger of the radical right-wing, which is trying to push Israel once again into a state of war and hostility with the Arabs.

Fatah Committee Drafts Election Plan, Candidate List

JN1911071995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Committee and Revolutionary Council of Fatah Movement have worked out an organizational framework to follow up all political, organizational, and media aspects of the electoral process. The decision was made in a meeting the movement held under President Yasir 'Arafat last night.

The movement also decided to draft a list of its candidates in the various constituencies in light of the field surveys and follow-up and the opinions of the grassroots and leadership.

The higher Fatah committees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip held a series of meetings over the past two days. They discussed the National Authority's preparations to take over the remaining Palestinian cities and the electoral process.

PFLP, DFLP Urge Boycott of Elections

TA1911080295 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabulus, QUDS PRESS — Two Palestinian factions that oppose the Declaration of Principles signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides have called for boycotting the Palestinian elections scheduled to be held in January.

A statement issued by the unified command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] said that "these elections contravene the regulations and decisions of the PLO and the Palestine National Councils." The statement, a copy of which was sent to QUDS PRESS, said that "the two Fronts' command does not consider these elections to be free and fair. They are being conducted under the occupation's bayonet."

Al-Maliki Denies PFLP Decision Against Elections

TA2111153795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, who is close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by Dr. George Habash, has denied that there is an official and final PFLP stance regarding nonparticipation in the Palestinian elections.

Al-Maliki told AL-QUDS that the PFLP Central Committee did not issue a refusal to participate at the end of its discussions on the elections. He added that internal discussions were held in accordance with the concept of democracy in the PFLP in order to determine a stance throughout the Palestinian homeland on this important issue.

Al-Maliki noted that a decision on nonparticipation in the elections to the self-rule council with limited powers was issued at last year's PFLP general conference, but in light of the political changes that occurred during this year, especially in the wake of the signing of the Oslo B agreement and the Authority's standing, there is now room to discuss the issue of elections again. The PFLP should adopt a final stance and either reaffirm its previous decision on nonparticipation or adopt a new and different position.

Al-Maliki admitted that there are various opinions in the PFLP. Some are calling for participating in the elections without conditions. Others are proposing preconditions for participation, and there are those who have reservations about and absolutely reject this electoral process.

He praised the discussions being held inside the territories on this issue. He said they are important, official, and meaningful and will greatly contribute to the adoption of a final PFLP decision.

Al-Maliki added: We hope that all these perceptions and discussions will be taken into consideration at the PFLP Central Committee meeting that will be held in Damascus at the end of November to determine a final and official stance on the elections.

People's Party Leader al-Najjab on Elections

JN2111153595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Nov 95 p 30

[Interview with Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee and secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party, by Kamal Zakarinah in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Zakarinah] What do you think of the date of the Palestinian elections, set for 20 January 1996?

[Al-Najjab] We have strong reservations about this date, which does not even agree with the Oslo B agreement. The accord links the date of the elections with the completion of redeployment and the Israeli commitment to it. It is feared that the elections might take place before the completion of redeployment, especially from Hebron, something which may lead to procrastination and the imposition of a partitioning of this Palestinian town. In addition, a period of two months from now is not sufficient for a political process with serious and far-reaching dimensions and a direct effect on the basic issues of Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, and the borders.

[Zakarinah] Will the Palestinian People's Party take part in these elections?

[Al-Najjab] In principle, yes. However, we have demands. First, the fairness and freedom of the elections must be guaranteed. We are now studying the draft election law recently proposed by the Palestinian Authority [PA] to the people and their political forces.

[Zakarinah] What is your view and assessment of the participation of the opposition or independent Palestinian forces in the elections?

[Al-Najjab] We are a constructive opposition. In other words, we support the negotiations and any political settlement that ensures implementation of Resolution 242 with all its articles and parts. However, we oppose the agreements that have been reached so far, because they have not changed any of the manifestations of the Israeli occupation, and have given the PA nothing but administrative powers. Those agreements have maintained complete Israeli control over the land, water, economy, legislation, etcetera.

The course followed by the Palestinian side in the negotiations has so far led to those results which are more in line with the Labor Party's program than the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

We will participate in the Legislative Council elections to form a coalition with other national forces working to change the current course of negotiations to one that leads to the attainment of all Palestinian rights. I also believe that many independent personalities will take part in the elections battle. Those personalities have a clear representational capacity of the forces and segments of the Palestinian society. We are looking for national common denominators with them. We will work together to formulate a joint program that calls for a different negotiating course and for a monitoring of the PA's performance and the extent of its commitment to law, democracy, and human rights. We will work to draft an economic plan that reflects the aspirations of all the segments of the Palestinian society for building a national economy capable of resolving their economic problems and raising their standard of living. All our people's extensive economic capabilities and expertise in the homeland and the diaspora must have the opportunity to be employed in the economic building process.

Regarding the forces opposing the negotiations from the outset, they have not made a final decision yet. They are holding an intensive internal dialogue on whether to participate in the elections on the basis of a clear political program. We will discuss with those forces what their program has in common with ours, if they choose to participate in the elections. [passage omitted]

Kanafani Comments on New Israeli Cabinet

JN2211075795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0520 GMT 22 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser and spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Jericho; from the "A New Day" feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good morning.

[Kanafani] Good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] The formation of an Israeli Government under Shim'on Peres was announced last night. As Palestinians, what can we say about this cabinet, about this formation?

[Kanafani] This is a constitutional measure requiring Mr. Peres to form a Government. As I see it, the cabinet reflects unity within the Labor Party. This is good, particularly at this stage. However, let me say here that the formation of an Israeli cabinet and the selection of its members and the prime minister has to do with the Israeli people and not with the Palestinian people or officials. We signed an agreement with the Israeli Government, and we will continue to cooperate with the Israeli Government to implement this agreement, irrespective of who is head of this government or who are its members.

[Al-Barqawi] But, from an analytical point of view, do you believe that Shim'on Peres' government will be eager to achieve peace with us?

[Kanafani] As of this moment, it seems that Prime Minister Peres realizes the importance of pursuing the peace process and that procrastination and delay gives the extremists a signal that they can stop the peace process if they carry out violent action as they did during former Prime Minister Rabin's era. This realization, in itself, is good.

Let me cite his excellency the president who always says that peace is not only a Palestinian interest and demand but also an Israeli interest and demand, and a regional, Arab, and international interest. That is why Mr. Peres would not be doing a favor for the Palestinian people if he expedites the peace process. He would be serving all the peoples in the region, particularly the Israeli people.

[Al-Barqawi] Then, we can expect the Peres government to persistently carry out all the duties with which it is entrusted to achieve peace between us and Israel?

[Kanafani] We hope so. We now know that in our relationship with Israel, particularly on the peace process, everything is possible. But, we really hope that Mr. Peres will be committed to the peace process, not only in principle but also in terms of expeditious implementation and the meticulous and faithful implementation of all the Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

Sha'th on New Israeli Cabinet, Settlers Provocations

JN2211111595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Nov 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, planning and international cooperation minister, stressed that the new Israeli Government formed yesterday by Shim'on Peres, acting Israeli prime minister, should implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreements, including the agreement on the second stage that was recently signed in Washington.

At a news conference at the Planning and International Cooperation Ministry in Gaza at noon today Dr. Sha'th said that the new Israeli Government should complete the peace process. Dr. Sha'th said that the redeployment in Janin, the imminent redeployment in Tulkarm, and Israeli Prime Minister Peres' statements confirm that the peace process will continue.

Dr. Sha'th said that there is a political commitment by all the members of the new Israeli cabinet.

On the stand of the Israeli man on the street following former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination, Dr. Sha'th said: The behavior of the man on the street and the anger he has vented against those who want to destroy the peace process shows that the majority of the Israeli people want to go on with the peace process.

On the provocations of the settlers in Hebron in the West Bank, Dr. Sha'th emphasized the need to terminate the settlers' provocations as failure to do so will result in many dangers.

Al-Zahhar Previews Hamas-PA Dialogue in Cairo

MM2211124195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
22 Nov 95 p 5

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Al-Zahhar: Dialogue With Authority in Cairo Next Week"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Gaza Strip, has confirmed that Cairo will next week host a "dialogue" between a delegation from the movement and another from the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He said that the necessary preparations are being made this week. However, he said that it is difficult to hold a dialogue before the release of Sayyid Abu-Musamih, an official in the movement, because he has been "a participant in the dialogue since the Authority assumed its duties." He is detained because of a critical article he published in the Gaza-based AL-WATAN newspaper.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH al-Zahhar expressed his optimism about holding a dialogue. He said: "We hope so...they (the Authority) have responded to a large number of demands, including the release of 25 prisoners. There are still almost as many again...and we expect Abu-Musamih to be released."

Al-Zahhar announced the names of the Hamas delegation. They are: Jamil Hamasi from Jerusalem; Hasan Yusuf from Ramallah; Jamal Salim from Nabulus; 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Naqshah from Hebron; and 'Abd-al-Fattah Dukhan, Muhammad Sham'ah, Sayyid Abu-Musamih, and Mahmud al-Zahhar from Gaza. Al-Zahhar pointed to the participation of members from among those abroad, but declined to name them "for security reasons."

On the agenda of the dialogue sessions' proceedings, al-Zahhar said: "The two parties' demands will be presented and debates will be held after the first session. Our demands are to focus on bringing about a political, economic, and social system, because so far there is no system, and to ensure that security organs are not factional and to safeguard the achievements the Palestinian people made through the intifadah, since the objective is not merely to share power." Al-Zahhar declined to talk about a specific system or working mechanism for the Authority. He said: "I do not wish to talk about any details lest they be understood as preconditions."

Asked whether the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the threats posed by Jewish terrorism to the peace process prompts a serious dialogue between the Authority and Hamas, al-Zahhar said: "We do not differentiate between Jewish terrorism and secular terrorism. The Palestinian people's current suffering is no less than their suffering from the Shamir extremism.... Rabin broke our bones, expelled 418 of us to Marj al-'Uyun, killed thousands, and held us in prison for years.... As far as Hamas is concerned, a Jew remains a Jew, regardless of what he wears."

He stressed that Egypt has been chosen a venue for the dialogue not because we are opposed to Sudan, but because of "the geographical proximity, since the dialogue could be conducted in more than one session. And developments vis-a-vis redeployment and other issues require that the PA remain in Gaza." He added: "The Authority thought that it would be beneficial to hold the dialogue on Egyptian territory. We expect the results to be positive, God willing."

He denied rumors of mediation by the Muslim Brotherhood group in Egypt between Hamas and the Authority. He said: "We will meet on Egyptian territory and we will seek the intervention of a suitable mediator in the event of any problem." He pointed out that President Yasir 'Arafat's meetings with some of the group's leaders during his visits to Egypt are attributable to the fact that he, 'Arafat, "has relations with them, and he sees them when he visits Egypt."

Hamas Spokesman on Role, Limitations of Political Party

NC2111191095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Ibrahim Ghawshah. We see there are two positions. We need some clarification from you. The first position is the decision not to take part in the elections [in the Palestinian self-rule areas], which is, to say the least, a negative stance toward the Oslo authorities [the Palestinian Authority] and the outcome of the Oslo agreement. The second position concerns the establishment of a party under this authority. How can we reconcile between these two steps, which might at first appear incongruent?

[Ghawshah] The position on not participating in the self-rule elections is in harmony with the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] stance of rejecting these agreements and the so-called settlement process. As for the stance on establishing the party, it might appear to the general public to be contradictory. The fact is: This party is one of the tools of the struggle, to which Hamas could resort. Some conditions have enabled Hamas to form this party to deal with the developments resulting from self-rule. But this would not deviate from the Islamic movement's constants, such as refusal to recognize the Zionist entity and rejection of the Oslo agreements. It is not the issue of a party, but the issue of this party's commitment and adherence to the Islamic movement's fundamental principles.

[Correspondent] Do I understand from what you said that this party will be a political extension of Hamas?

[Ghawshah] We can say that the party is one of the Islamic movement's modes of action for dealing with the current status. But this party will not propound all the Hamas ideas; it will try to focus on some of the Palestinian people's livelihood issues, such as the climate of freedom and democracy and the halt to oppression and detentions. It will concentrate on elections other than the self-rule ones, elections such as the municipal elections and others. These are issues the party will deal with.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the Islamic Salvation Party is a party in occupied Palestine and that there is a larger framework outside Palestine, namely Hamas?

[Ghawshah] Exactly. The party will operate only in the self-rule areas and will have no extension abroad. It will have a specific framework of action. Let us say that this party will undergo a test. It might succeed or fail. But whether it succeeds or not, Hamas will remain as it is with its fundamental and known program based on the principle of resisting the Zionist occupation.

[Correspondent] Will the party and Hamas have joint responsibility?

[Ghawshah] There is no joint responsibility. The party will have a specific context and specific decisions that it will make. But as I said, this party can in no way commit itself to any of the Islamic movement's basic programs or constants.

Killers of Jihad Activists Arrested

JN2111140495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Masri, official in charge of public relations at the Palestinian General Intelligence, has disclosed that the killers of the two martyrs Hani al-'Abid and Mahmud al-Khawaja have been arrested.

In an interview broadcast on Palestinian television, al-Masri said the murderers will be put on trial soon.

Donor Countries Recommend Aid for Authority

JN2211072595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The donor countries have recommended offering $75 million to cover the deficit in the Palestinian budget and $600 million to finance investment and social projects in Palestine. These sums will be approved during the donor countries ministerial meeting in Paris on 9 December.

These recommendations were made during two meetings the donor countries held in the UN office in Gaza.

Algeria

APS Criticizes 'Interference' by France

LD2111133795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before we develop our headlines, let us return to both official and unofficial comments made by Paris about the presidential elections of 16 November which are still inspired by a desire to interfere. The official agency, APS [Algerian Press Service], has released a long comment about this. Amal Laazib reports:

[Laazib] APS writes that the two favorite themes of French interference are, on the one hand, the necessary dialogue with those political forces which reject violence and, on the other hand, the need to hold multiparty general elections after the presidential elections. If France is updated on Algeria's affairs — and updated it must be — the authorities, eminences grises, those who lecture others and self-proclaimed mentors should know that these two requirements have been on the national agenda since Liamine Zeroual has been the president of the state, and that they are at the top of the program of the new president of the republic. APS concludes that everyone can easily see that French officials are pushing open doors which were already open. APS asks: What does such interference conceal? The interpretation of French intentions will be carried out in due course.

However, APS reports, time may have gone by but it did not eradicate the heritage a tragic history bequeathed to the relations between Algeria and France. It is dangerous to reopen wounds which need, first and foremost, to be nursed. It is just as perilous to think that it is still possible to impose on the Algerian people new forms of tutelage although they have paid with their blood to free themselves from the old ones. This is why any attack against the sovereignty of their nation can only signify for Algerians an attempt to restore an order they have fought and defeated. Let us be on our guard: the colonial order has earned from the Algerian people neither forgiveness nor forgetting.

Mehri: FLN Ready To Help Resolve Crisis

BR2111145595 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Nov 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN general secretary and HAMAS leader Mahfoud Nahnah by Veronique Hayoun in Algiers; date not given: "The FLN Wants To Help Resolve the Algerian Crisis 'in a Realistic Manner'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Appearing on the television program "Seven out of Seven" on TF 1 on Sunday, 19 November, French Prime Minister Alain Juppe described the presidential election as "an important stage" toward democratization in Algeria. "If there are Islamists who accept the basic rules of democracy, then naturally we must talk with them," he said. In the Gulf countries, most newspapers were happy with the election of General Liamine Zeroual. According to the Saudi daily AL MADINA, Zeroual will now benefit from a "constitutional legitimacy" and a "popular mandate."

In Algiers during an interview with LE MONDE special envoy Veronique Hayoun, Abdelhamid Mehri, general secretary of the FLN [National Liberation Front], formerly the country's only party, said that far from constituting a setback for those in favor of a boycott, the election on 16 November reflected "a certain fervor on the part of the Algerian people for civil peace." This attitude on the part of the electorate "shores up our position," he said. "The people who signed up to the agreement in Rome have always said that their priority was to achieve civil peace, with a broad national consensus, and that this was the essential condition for finding a way out of the crisis."

While playing down the importance of the level of the election turnout — "a figure that cannot be verified and which is therefore not very important" — and denying the validity of the election — "the dice were cast in advance" — Mr. Mehri nonetheless expressed the view that Mr. Zeroual was "the only candidate capable of standing." The leaders of the FLN would be "ready" to make a positive response "to a realistic approach to the crisis." If the head of state made them an offer of this kind, "we would accept without any hesitation."

Meanwhile Mahfoud Nahnah, the second-placed candidate who attracted more than one quarter of the votes cast, did not make any attempt to conceal his satisfaction at becoming what he termed "number one in the opposition." This satisfaction was all the deeper bearing in mind the fact that "the people who called for a boycott are back in power: In the image of the FLN, which lends its total support," he told our special envoy. In the eyes of the founder of the MSI-Hamas [Movement of the Islamic Society], the difference between the election held on 16 November 1995 and the first round of the general election held on 26 December 1991 — which resulted in the party receiving just 368,697 votes — is easy to explain: "The 1991 elections were more political, whereas the recent election has to do with an aspiration to achieve peace," Nahnah said reassuringly.

"The Islamic Salvation Front No Longer Exists"

The percentage of the vote obtained on 16 November "represents the real grass-roots support for Hamas," he insisted. For Hamas or for the former FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]? The people who voted for the latter "do not belong to anybody," Nahnah said. "The FIS familiar to us from 1991 no longer exists. The proof of this is that its leadership called for a boycott and that the people failed to respond. Some elements of the FIS participated in this election — in their hundreds of thousands," he went on. "We have no enmity toward any Algerian. The only people we condemn are those who resort to violence and exclusion because our main enemies are dictatorship and the prohibition of freedoms."

Have the leaders of the former FIS not become alienated from their grass-roots support? Nahnah is close to reaching this conclusion: "The leaders of this party say that democracy and elections are an apostasy. Today some militants are going back to adopting these positions and they talk of democracy." In his opinion, the good result achieved in the presidential election — virtually the same as that obtained by the FIS in December 1991 — represents a "fair reversal of the situation."

The "irregularities" that sullied the election were supposedly proof of this, on the other hand. "We are the first people to complain about them, because we have been the main victim of the abuses of the administration," Mr. Nahnah explained, claiming to have "solid evidence [of such irregularities]." The MSI-Hamas has but one objective, namely to contribute "to any measures that could stop the bloodshed" and "help to bring the crisis to an end." "Democracy does not mean setting up an opposition outside the country by fax or remote control, but living with realities," he added. His allusion could refer just as well to the representatives of the former FIS abroad or to Hocine Ait-Ahmed, general secretary of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], who operates from Switzerland.

The accelerated marginalization of the "three F's" (FLN, FIS, and FFS) which the presidential election succeeded in underpinning, clearly did not displease him. "On the day of the election, 100 militants belonging to the Armed Islamic Group surrendered to the authorities," he noted. "We have always favored a 'treatment' of violence rather than combat. The most important form of therapy consists of widening the power base in such a way that everyone is involved in the effort to build the nation."

Parties Said To Admit Election Boycott 'Mistake'

LD2211120795 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, three of the parties which called for a boycott of the [presidential] elections have admitted they made a mistake. They are Ait Ahmed's Socialist Forces Front [FFS], the FLN [National Liberation Front] — the former single party — and the Islamist movement, al-Nahdah.

The three say that the vote of the Algerians is a clear message against violence.

FIS Leader Kebir Ready To Talk With Zeroual

AU2211102595 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Nov 22 (AFP) — The exiled leader of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Rabeh Kebir, has said he is prepared to open dialogue with President Liamine Zeroual following the latter's victory in the presidential election last week.

Kebir made the offer in an open letter, written in French, to Zeroual received by AFP here Wednesday.

In the letter, Kebir voiced his "permanent availability for dialogue, consultation and readiness to help the ruling powers and opposition define the causes of tension in our society."

He also expressed his "satisfaction" with Zeroual's stance after the elections, pointing to his "determination to work to help all Algerians and to find their place in the construction of the country."

Zeroual won 61.34 percent of the vote in Thursday's [16 November] polls, putting him back in office for another five years.

The FIS is one of eight opposition parties — signatories to a "national contract" signed in January — which called for a boycott of the elections. Algeria has been mired in civil unrest since 1992, when the military-backed regime cancelled elections that the FIS was poised to win.

More on Kebir Desire for Dialogue

LD2211115995 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1016 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabeh Kebir, president of the executive body of the Islamic Salvation Front (outlawed FIS) abroad, has said he is ready to cooperate with Algerian President Zeroual. He said he is available for a "dialogue" and "cooperation with the authorities" in an "open letter" to Liamine Zeroual written in French.

This is the first time Rabeh Kebir has adopted a conciliatory attitude toward President Zeroual to whom he expressed his "satisfaction" about his attitude after his election.

Police Storm 'Terrorist' Group in Oran

LD2111132195 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] First we go to Oran, in the west of Algeria where the police have stormed a building in the popular district of Gambetta. A group of a dozen presumed Islamists have since yesterday been detaining a family living in this building as hostages. Let's listen to a journalist of the local press who covered the event. He spoke to Monique Mas:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The police have been negotiating [with the kidnappers] since yesterday afternoon. The storming of the flat which the terrorist group was barricading was launched this morning at 1000 [1100 GMT]. According to eyewitnesses, nine bodies have been taken out on stretches.

[Mas] Could these bodies be those of the terrorists in question or of people residing in the building?

[Correspondent] The residents of the building were evacuated yesterday at noon when the housing estate was besieged. Gunshots were exchanged. We even heard the explosion of a grenade, presumably thrown by the armed group. The bodies taken out this morning are certainly those of the armed terrorists.

This building is located in a popular district where police officers live. According to rumors yesterday, a police officer and his family were the target of the kidnapping operation. The rumors have not been confirmed yet. [end recording]

More on Operation

LD2111201695 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services have announced that the security forces killed nine members of a terrorist group in Oran [western Algeria] this morning. After the security forces became aware of the presence of the terrorist group on the fifth floor of a block of flats in Cite Jeanne d'Arc housing estate in Gambetta, Oran, the building was evacuated to prevent hostages being taken. The security forces then stormed the building and managed to kill the nine members of the group which included one woman. A quantity of weapons and explosives was also seized in the operation.

Egypt

Islamic Group Threatens Government Officials

NC2111080495 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 21 (AFP) — An Islamic group which claimed the bombing of Egypt's embassy in Pakistan threatened on Tuesday [21 November] to murder President Husni Mubarak and three senior ministers.

In a two-page typed fax to an international news agency, the International Justice Group (IJG) condemned "the pharaohs of Egypt" — Mubarak, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

It said "death sentences have been passed against them, even if they hang from the curtains of the Kaaba," the holy black stone in Mecca, for protection.

Egypt has focused on the IJG as the most likely of three groups which claimed Sunday's suicide bombing of Egypt's embassy in Islamabad, which killed 16 and injured more than 60.

The government has vowed to track down exiled Moslem militants, prompting the group to say it was: "amused by what we heard through the Egyptian press from Egypt's pharaohs following the bombing of the Egyptian embassy."

"We accept the challenge," it said. "Don't worry, we will shorten the way for you. We will ease the burden of travelling for you because you are too cowardly to do it. We will come to you, God willing."

"We will come to relieve you from the world and relieve all mankind from you and your filth, you cowards and traitors," it said.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and al-Jihad, which have spearheaded militant violence in Egypt, also claimed the attack.

The IJG, suspected to be a branch of the al-Jama'ah, also claimed the murder of an Egyptian diplomat in Geneva last week, after which it vowed to continue its operations.

Funeral Held for Victims of Embassy Bombing

NC2111133195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an official and popular funeral, Egypt today bade its final farewell to its sons martyred by the sinful terrorist attack against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. Egyptians from all groups and sects gathered to condemn terrorism and terrorists and to participate in the prayers held at the armed forces mosque in Madinat Nasr. After the prayers, the mourners walked behind the coffins of Egypt's martyrs in a massive funeral procession until the martyrs were laid to rest in their final home.

The funeral was attended by Chief Chamberlain Sa'id Zadah as a representative of President Husni Mubarak; speakers of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council; the prime minister; the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, and interior; the mufti of the Republic; and many senior state officials.

Along the road to the cemetery, crowds chanted slogans condemning terrorism and terrorists and raised banners condemning the cowardly terrorist act. The funeral, in which all sects, parties, schools, universities, ministries, and government organizations participated, turned into a demonstration of love for Egypt. The masses declared their condemnation and denunciation of terrorism and its advocates and their readiness to confront anyone trying to harm Egypt and its development march.

Israel Inclusion in 'Bright Star' Maneuvers Rejected

JN1911150895 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
20 Nov 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The United States has informed Egypt that it wishes to see Israel participating in the next "Bright Star" maneuvers. This follows Cairo's rejection of Israel's participation in the recent maneuvers.

The United States also urged Egypt and Israel to cooperate in the military field in the context of joint defensive and offensive plans to repel raids by a "potential enemy" or carry out joint military operations against this enemy.

Washington stressed that it will work on developing the framework of these maneuvers so that other Arab states can join them. It noted that Jordan is a very likely candidate.

Reports say Israeli military officials have asked their government to press the United States to stop these maneuvers if it [Egypt] insists on its position rejecting Israel's participation. This pressure, however, did not yield any results when Cairo refused to submit to it.

Israelis Discuss Middle East Bank Arrangements

NC2111140895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1310 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Ambassador Ra'uf Sa'd, deputy assistant foreign minister for regional cooperation, met today with an Israeli delegation led by Udi Diran, official in charge of economic affairs at the Israeli Foreign Ministry [name and title as received].

Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan later stated that the meeting was in the context of arrangements to set up the Bank of Development and Investment in the Middle East and North Africa, to be established in Cairo as agreed upon during the economic summit in Amman.

The Israeli ambassador pointed out that efforts are under way to prepare for a meeting of the committee stemming from the Egyptian-Israeli joint economic committee to discuss ways to facilitate the passage of trucks across the Egyptian-Israeli-Palestinian borders.

The ambassador added that the Israeli side is waiting for the Egyptian side to set a date for that meeting. He said that the top issue on the agenda is facilitating the passage of trucks in both directions.

The Israeli ambassador added that he took part in the funeral of the victims of the Egyptian embassy attack. Condemning this attack, he remarked that terrorism has become an international phenomenon and that the entire world should do its utmost to stand up to such acts.

The Israeli ambassador offered his country's condolences to the Egyptian people and the families of the victims.

Jihad Warns 'Governments Fighting Islam'

MM2211112895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
22 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Jihad Group Warns Pakistan, Welcomes Confrontation With Egypt Abroad"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — The Jihad group, led by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, who lives in Switzerland, has issued new warnings to states extraditing any members of extremist religious organizations to the Egyptian Government. The group issued three statements yesterday, of which AL-HAYAH has obtained copies. They are signed "the Information Office — the Jihad group in Egypt." The group confirms that the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan was carried out by two of the group's members belonging to the Company of the Martyrs 'Isam al-Qamri and Ibrahim Salamah (who were killed in clashes with Egyptian police a few years ago). The group said that the incident "proves to the idolatrous government in Pakistan that the extradition of the 'mujahidin' to the Egyptian Government would not go unpunished." The group added in its statements that "the Jihad group has decided to do all it can to establish an Islamic state in Egypt. And it believes that it is entitled to fight all the organs of the government, which has persisted in using its Foreign Ministry to fight the 'mujahidin' by concluding security agreements for the sake of having them extradited to Egypt. The clearest example of this is what the Pakistani Government has done under U.S. pressure, namely besieging and extraditing Arab mujahidin who fought in Afghanistan and defended Pakistani Muslims. Their reward from the secular Pakistani Government has been ingratitude and their extradition to their governments."

The group considered the operation "a clear message to the secular Pakistani Government that it will reap nothing but loss from its agreement with the Egyptian Government." In threatening language, the group said: "This operation is a message to all the governments fighting Islam. The crimes will not pass unpunished, and any hands that commit aggression against the mujahidin have to be severed." Commenting on statements made by Egyptian officials to the effect that the battle with the extremists has moved abroad, the group said: "Indeed the battle has been moved abroad...you are welcome abroad, and you are welcome inside the country, as we have prepared for you battalions which are competing to die." [passage omitted]

Mubarak on Visit to Jerusalem, Islamic Movement

NC1711202695 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Nov 95

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by unidentified French Television Channel 2 correspondent in Paris; date not given—recorded; in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President, you visited Jerusalem a week ago. How do you feel about this trip?

[Mubarak] I went last week to offer condolences to the Israeli Government and people and Rabin's family. I have known this man since 1986. I met him when he was defense minister. We held lengthy talks when he was a member of the Shamir government. We discussed the peace process, peace prospects, and the future of the peace process. When he became prime minister, Egypt was the first country he visited. He visited Egypt three days after assuming the post of prime minister. We discussed the peace process for three hours. Since we met for the first time in 1986, I felt that man could do something. He was very rational. Since he became prime minister, he endorsed all that we had discussed before. He did a great deal and addressed the most sensitive and complicated aspects of the Middle East problem — the Palestinian problem. If this problem were to be solved, any other problem would be easy to solve. He had the courage to do that and so I decided to offer condolences over him in Israel.

[Correspondent] What are the feelings that will remain in your memory about this visit?

[Mubarak] I recall that instead of the violence between the Arabs and Israel, between the Palestinians and Israel.... [pauses] Many heads of state came to Israel to offer condolences. I realize that peace must be established in this region of the world. Enough 50 years of war, bloodshed, and violence. There is a basic logic. When some people think that the Israeli Labor Party and the Likud Party are part of the same game, we find that the Likud recently is not the same as it was during Menachem Begin's era. They do not support peace, whereas the Labor Party supports peace, however, I believed that the issue is not a game. Each party has its own views. We signed peace with the Likud Party and signed the Taba agreement with Peres and the Labor Party. I hope that peace will prevail.

[Correspondent] Do you feel that there are any threats by extremists as was the case for Rabin?

[Mubarak] Jewish, Islamic, or any extremism is now an international phenomenon. When they attack a head of state we must be careful because they are irrational.

[Correspondent] How do you view the Islamic movements in the world at present. Are they stronger or weaker?

[Mubarak] I will not talk of the Islamic movement. I will discuss the terrorist groups that use religion as a cover. Islam, like any other religion, does not call for violence or bloodshed, but calls for peace, love, cooperation and it shuns hatred. All heavenly religions call for this. If we call these groups Islamic, the term is misused. They are extremists and terrorists. This is now an international phenomenon. You suffer from this phenomenon here. Do you think that all those detained here know what the teachings of Islam are? They use Islam as a cover for their acts. Those who carried out the terrorist act in the World Trade Center in Oklahoma, [as heard] was that act in line with the teachings of any religion? They commit crimes here and there — in Japan, Turkey, Italy, Russia, and elsewhere. It is an international phenomenon. We must cooperate to confront acts of terror and terrorists.

Minister Comments on Mubarak's France Visit

NC1811090495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that

President Husni Mubarak's talks with French President Jacques Chirac have achieved positive results. He noted that the two leaders' views on the Middle East peace process and the situation in the Balkans are identical.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM today, the information minister added that President Mubarak and Chirac agreed on the need for Algeria to enjoy security and stability. He added that the two leaders stressed the importance of confronting world terrorism and coordination among all countries in this regard because terrorism has become a world-wide phenomenon.

For his part, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said President Mubarak's visit to Paris shows Egypt's interest in culture and science and demonstrates the importance Egypt attaches to cultural ties and culture's role through its cooperation with UNESCO.

Mubarak Congratulates Algeria's Zeroual

NC1711214995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2050 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Following his return from Paris this evening, President Husni Mubarak telephoned Algerian President Liamine Zeroual. He congratulated him on his victory in the presidential elections and wished him and the fraternal Algerian people progress and prosperity. President Mubarak earlier sent a congratulatory cable to the Algerian president expressing his personal and the Egyptian people and government congratulations on his victory. He noted the historic and struggle relations linking the Egyptian and Algerian peoples.

Chinese General Fu, Delegation Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC1811091595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0815 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Presidential Office this morning General Fu Quanyou, chief of General Staff of the PRC People's Liberation Army, who is currently visiting Egypt, and his accompanying delegation.

Lieutenant General Majdi Hatatah, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and China's Ambassador in Cairo Yang Fuchang attended the meeting.

Comments on Cooperation, Ties

NC1811103295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0925 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and General Fu Quanyou, chief of the General Staff of the PRC People's Liberation Army, today reviewed the progress of cooperation between the two countries, especially between the armed forces.

General Fu Quanyou announced this after he and his delegation met with President Mubarak. He said President Mubarak has visited China six times and that he is a great friend who enjoys the complete respect and love of the Chinese people. He added that President Mubarak contributed to supporting and developing the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the armed forces in Egypt and China.

He said he conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from the Chinese president and prime minister and that President Mubarak asked him to relay his greetings to them.

The Chinese chief of staff noted that China and Egypt are proud of their friendship and the friendship of their leaders. He said: We are exerting joint efforts to develop the two countries' ties and friendship. During our stay, we saw the Egyptian people's and government's great achievements and efforts to develop the economy and the defense force.

He added: We are happy for the Egyptian people's great accomplishments in all spheres. President Mubarak expressed to me his high appreciation for China's achievements in economic reform and openness.

Concluding his statement, the Chinese general thanked the Egyptian Government, people, and Army for their continuous cooperation with the Chinese Government, Army, and people in all fields, of which his country is proud. He noted that Egypt and China attach great importance to these ties and this cooperation and that they have continuous visits and leadership contacts.

Departs Cairo

NC1911125695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1205 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—General Fu Quanyou, chief of the General Staff of the PRC People's Liberation Army, left Cairo today after a visit that lasted several days.

During the visit he was received by President Husni Mubarak and reviewed cooperation between Egypt and China and their Armed Forces.

Musa Reports Contacts Prior to Barcelona Conference

NC1811162195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1552 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated today that Egypt is contacting other Arab countries to coordinate positions with them in preparation for the Barcelona conference to be held in late November.

Musa added that part of his recent talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' focused on this issue. He noted that he made several contacts today with several Arab foreign ministers who will attend the Barcelona conference and that they agreed on a specific framework of coordination which is quite satisfactory.

Asked about the fact that Libya will not participate in the Barcelona conference, Musa said that Libya has an indisputable right to receive an invitation to attend the conference. He noted that this last point is one of the important subjects that Egypt is raising during its contacts prior to the Barcelona conference. He said the issue is not closed yet.

Musa Comments on Israeli Withdrawal, Bosnia

NC1811171495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced today that Egypt is following up the implementation of the Taba Agreement on the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

He noted that the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Janin is part of the agreement and that the redeployment of these forces is expected to be completed by the end of December. Musa said that the withdrawal from Janin imparts a positive character to the Palestinian-Israeli peace operation.

Asked to comment on recent remarks by Israeli acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres about Jerusalem, Musa said that Peres has the right to express his views as he wants.

On another issue, Foreign Minister Musa said that he hopes to see some positive progress toward solving the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He pointed out that some progress has been made in the talks on this issue. He said Egypt hopes that the solution will preserve Bosnia's territorial integrity. Musa explained that Egypt's position on this issue is firm and that Egypt will approve of whatever arrangements the Bosnians find acceptable.

Mauritania

Council of Ministers Approves Draft 1996 Budget

LD2011231195 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The council of ministers met 20 November under the chairmanship of His Excellency Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The council examined and approved the draft budget law for 1996.

The 1996 budget will be, between revenues and expenditures, 43.188 billion ouguiyas. The budget revenues have risen by 7.55 percent as a result of increased revenues from the fisheries sector and an improvement in the production of domestic products.

The operating budget has been increased by 5.2 percent. This lower increase is part of the financial austerity measures introduced by the government. However this austerity is accompanied by large allocations to education and health in the framework of the priority given by the government to social sectors. Capital expenditures have reached a total amount of 21.951 billion ouguiyas. The balance of capital expenditures corresponds to the economic priorities set by the state and which are aimed at boosting our country's development.

Not counting two sectors, the capital expenditures per sector are distributed as follows:

1. Regional development: 6.296 billion ouguiyas, 38.2 percent of total.
2. Rural development: 4.536 billion ouguiyas, 27.5 percent.
3. Human resources: 2.919 billion ouguiyas, 17.7 per cent.
4. Industrial development: 2.370 billion ouguiyas, 14.4 percent.
5. Development of institutions: 350 million ouguiyas, 2.1 percent of total.

Only 17.78 percent of total investment has been earmarked to finance foreign debts because the remainder of the debts are financed by grants or semi-grants [as heard] and the state budget.

The 1996 Budget Law falls within the framework of the dynamics aimed at stabilizing the finances of the state, maintaining the major balances [as heard], and strengthening the economic foundation through an appropriate investment effort.

That was the text of the statement issued at the end of the Council of Ministers' meeting devoted to the discussion of the 1996 draft budget.

Sudan

Nation Witnessing 'Jihad Mobilization' Against Uganda

EA1811154095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The country is witnessing a jihad mobilization in which all organizations of society are participating. Banners of the jihad mobilization have been raised to thwart the intrigue of the Ugandan acts of aggression.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has stated that the country's march will not halt however much the threats and rancor against Sudan continue. His Excellency said Sudan was capable of preserving its unity to become a unique model for Africa and the world. He confirmed that we are capable of protecting land and honor and proceeding with the march of peace through major development projects and rehabilitating what was destroyed by the war.

The various Sudanese states have declared support for the jihad march by equipping battalions of mujaheddin to go to areas of operations to reply to the Ugandan intervention and the rebels.

Al-Bashir: Nation Ready To Offer Martyrs

EA1711141595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, today addressed a mass rally in Abu-Hamad town where he stressed that the stratagems of those who sought to ambush the country and [word indistinct] would only increase our resolve to go ahead in laying the foundations of our civilization project.

He said the Armed Forces and the Popular Defense Forces were ready to offer one martyr after another to cleanse every inch of the homeland of the enemies' filth. He said that no invader or stooge would be permitted on Sudanese territory. He said that the battalions of mujaheddin coming from all the towns of the country would teach them a lesson they would not forget. [passage omitted]

He saluted the Armed Forces and the Popular Defense Forces who are blocking the enemies of the homeland. He announced a donation of 100 million Sudanese pounds to Abu-Hamad town.

Foreign Minister on Fact-Finding Visit to Juba

EA2111151795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The foreign minister, Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, returned to Khartoum yesterday evening after a one-day visit to Juba town, the capital of Bahr al-Jabal state.

The purpose of the visit was to see conditions in the town and to assure himself of calm among the town's inhabitants. He was accompanied by a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry, the chairman of the transitional national assembly's peace committee and some members of the Sufi orders. Following the conclusion of the visit, our two colleagues, Ma'mun Abdullah and 'Abd-al-Hayy (al-Rabi) interviewed the minister, who said the following:

[Begin recording] [Taha] We paid a visit — a blessed visit, God willing — to Juba town in the good company of men of the Da'wah [religious propaganda] and the Sufi movement. Also in the delegation were men and officials of the transitional national assembly as well as ambassadors working at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

The visit was an opportunity for us to assure ourselves about the safety [words indistinct] in Juba town and the surrounding towns and villages. We managed to meet the state governments [words indistinct]. We saw the plans and preparedness of the state governments aimed at providing stability and basic living necessities for the citizens. We toured the town's districts, visited its markets and saw the availability of various types of food needed by the (?citizens) such as vegetables, [word indistinct], cosmetics, clothes and other diverse commercial items.

We also had the opportunity to meet groups of [words indistinct] and the People's Defense Force all of whom were very enthusiastic to defend the homeland and repulse the external aggression, which has received support from abroad. We also found the same spirit among the officers and men of the Armed Forces, who are determined, with God's support and their strong will, to repulse the externally-supported aggression and protect Sudan's stability and its borders and to maintain Juba as a town for the peace advocates and for stability and religious co-existence. The Armed Forces want to contribute to building a new and bright Sudan with the Sudanese people's determination — all the Sudanese people.

It is from this town of peace, the town of (?good), that I address these words of mine to all the Sudanese people. They should feel reassured about the safety of the situation in this dear part of our country. [Word indistinct] and their role in strengthening the capabilities of the Armed Forces and the People's Defense Forces to defend not only these areas which have been subjected — I mean the front lines which have been subjected to aggression supported from abroad — but also to protect and maintain stability in all parts of the country.

[Unidentified interviewer] Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, this is about what is going on in the internal arena. What is the role of official diplomacy in the external sector, which is interested in what is happening in Sudan in relation to the international arena? There are numerous news reports put out by external radios on the situation. What is your reply to that?

[Taha] Part of our visit was to confirm the situation in the field, especially [word indistinct] there have been many reports in the foreign (?media). The reports which we send to our embassies abroad and deliver to the ambassadors accredited to Sudan and the international media must be based on facts gathered directly from the field, which should support other reports reaching us from other official channels. All of these indicate that the publicized fabrications about the rebel forces approaching — or that they have scored victories or that they are posing a threat to Juba town or its environs — all these are baseless rumors.

Life here is quite normal. The Armed Forces and the people's Defense Forces are stationed in all their positions — their advanced positions. We have examined the facts, and these show that the aggression has been repulsed and they, the attackers, are now retreating to the place they entered from — God willing. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was the foreign minister, Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, who was interviewed following his visit yesterday to Juba town.

SPLA'S Garang: Over 1,000 NIF Soldiers Annihilated

AB1711195095 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 17 Nov 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It seems heavy fighting is going on in southern Sudan. Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] rebels began a major offensive last month, taking a string of towns, [and] heading for the main southern city of Juba. The advance came to a halt at the Kit River Bridge, 60 miles from Juba. The Sudan head of state, General 'Umar al-Bashir, claiming that the rebels were being helped by Uganda troops, asserted on Wednesday [15 November] that a heavy defeat had been inflicted on them, and that his troops were heading toward the border with Uganda. Well now, SPLA leader, John Garang, disputes that. He says that his forces have engaged two government brigades, that yesterday, one of them headed south from Kit and was ambushed and routed by SPLA forces. On the satellite link, Tom Porshes asked John Garang how many government soldiers he claimed had been killed:

[Begin recording] [Garang] The battle lasted for two hours. I would estimate about 1,000 NIF [National Islamic Front] soldiers were put out of action....

[Porshes, interrupting] NIF soldiers? By that you mean Sudanese Government soldiers?

[Garang] I mean Sudan Government soldiers. We captured two tanks in good condition. We destroyed six tanks, so they are left only with two tanks, though those fled northward with the remnants of the force.

[Porshes] Did you personally take part in this action?

[Garang] Well, I am commanding the whole operation. I am in the theater of operations. Of course, I am not with the [words indistinct], but I am commanding the battle.

[Porshes] So you are saying that two Sudanese brigades were involved in this action.

[Garang] Correct.

[Porshes] And you ambushed both of them. Is that correct?

[Garang] One was in the rear as a reserve which is at Kit, and one was in front. It is the one that was in front called [name indistinct] Sudan which we ambushed and completely annihilated. The whole ground is littered with dead bodies.

[Porshes] And what about the other brigade; is that still holding the bridge?

[Garang] The other brigade is at the bridge, and we are now engaging them today.

[Porshes] But has that battle started yet?

[Garang] That battle is on now.

[Porshes] And what's going on?

[Garang] The morale of government troops is very.... [pauses] is completely shattered at Kit, and at Aishoa we will completely destroy them.

[Porshes] Now these brigades, you say, were advancing toward the Ugandan border. Is that correct?

[Garang] That is not what I said. That's what 'Umar al-Bashir said. They were advancing to rescue their beleaguered force at Aishoa. Aishoa is 75 km south of Kit, and when we started the offensive on 25 October, this force, we quarantined it. It is behind our lines. The frontline is now at Kit; these people are 75 km south of us. We are actually using them as a bait because they must be rescued.

[Porshes] So the claims of 'Umar al-Bashir that he is advancing toward Uganda, you reject those claims?

[Garang] Completely false. He is fighting us. There are no Ugandans in Kit. There are no Ugandans anywhere in southern Sudan. The facts are there for anybody who is looking for the truth.

[Porshes] Dr. Garang, the facts are that for the last several years, the SPLA has been very much on the defensive. Now it's on the offensive and, as you say, you are doing very well in the south. Are you really expecting us to believe that you are not getting help from Sudan's many enemies, for example, the Egyptians, the Ugandans, even the United States?

[Garang] Absolutely, now let us look at the facts. 'Umar al- Bashir has been telling the Sudanese people and telling the world that he is in the process of raising 1 million mujaheddin, 1 million soldiers. Well, if the war was over, if the SPLA were defeated, then you don't raise 1 million soldiers; you don't mobilize. You demobilize when the war is over.

[Porshes] Are you now going to attack Juba?

[Garang] Well, I do not discuss my plans over the media.

[Porshes] But are you in a position to attack Juba?

[Garang] I am in a position to implement my plans.

[Porshes] And what's your plan?

[Garang] That one is known only to me. Of course, if I tell you now I would be telling 'Umar al-Bashir, and certainly I don't want to do that.

[Porshes] It looks as though you want to return southern Sudan to the cauldron of war.

[Garang] No, no, no, no. It is 'Umar al-Bashir that is doing that. He is telling the world that he is fighting a jihad. He is telling the world that he is raising 1 million soldiers. It is the NIF that is persisting in the war.

[Porshes] Why are you so reluctant to admit that you've got help from the outside, from other countries?

[Garang] Because we don't have. [end recording]

SPLM Reportedly Routs Government Forces in South

NC1711220395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2010 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nairobi, 17 Nov (MENA)—The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by John Garang, has announced that its forces succeeded in destroying all government forces that Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir declared he massed against the SPLM and to invade Uganda. In an exclusive statement to MENA this evening, (Pajan Amom), secretary of information and culture in the SPLM, said that a high-pitched battle raged between the two sides in the Ket area 30 kms from Juba, the south capital. During the battle, the government forces of Ibn al-Walid led by Brigadier General Dawud Babakr, were wiped out. He noted that the SPLM forces captured two serviceable TU-55 tanks and destroyed six others. He said that government forces suffered more than 1,000 dead or injured. They left behind huge quantities of artillery pieces, machine guns, RPG shells, and ammunition.

(Amom) disclosed that Battalion 129 and Battalion 143 of the government army refused to carry out orders to attack the SPLM. He noted that negotiations are under way beween the SPLM military commanders and the commanders of the two battalions to reach a formula for understanding and cooperation.

(Steven Wundow), official spokesman of the SPLM, led by John Garang, denied that Garang leveled any accusations against the U.S. Administration or officials of the State Department over their stance on Sudan. In a statement released in Nairobi today, he said that Garang did not make any statements on this issue to any newspaper or information media.

Egypt Not To Allow Opposition To Hold Summit in Cairo

NC2111165295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
14 Nov 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the differences between the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments since 1991, the Egyptian Government seems to have adopted a strong and positive stance on Sudan's unity. It has refused to allow the Sudanese opposition and the so-called opposition Sudanese Grouping to hold their third conference in Cairo. This is because holding the conference in Cairo would embarrass Egypt, which also knows that some foreign parties seek to exploit this opposition, which is allied with rebel John Garang's forces in military and subversive acts in Khartoum. This might harm stability in Sudan, which might reflect on Egypt's national security.

AL-SHA'B has learned from Egyptian and Sudanese diplomatic sources that in the end Cairo apologized to the Sudanese opposition representatives. Egypt's apology was conveyed to 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the al-Khatmiyah sect and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who visited Cairo twice recently to obtain final approval and set the date. Al-Mirghani met Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali and Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub and requested permission to hold the meeting in Cairo. Faruq Abu-'Isa, the head of the Sudanese Grouping, met Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss the same request, which was rejected out of concern for Sudanese stability and territorial integrity, a strategic goal of Egypt's national security.

The Sudanese opposition earlier held two meetings in London and Asmara. The latest conference in Asmara, which was attended by U.S. officials, concluded with serious resolutions that provided for the right of the south to separate from the north, something that Egypt opposes, and for opening Eritrean borders to the opposition and Garang forces to launch military operations against Sudanese installations; Cairo also opposes this.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the remnants of the Sudanese opposition, who congratulated Garang on his recent victories in the south and on his reoccupation of small towns in the south with the help of the Ugandan Army, are preparing to move to Eritrea to hold their third conference there.

Cairo's rejection was not officially announced, which is seen by diplomats as an Egyptian attempt to pressure Khartoum. Sudan earlier protested against permission to the opposition to hold their conference in Cairo and threatened to do the same [for the Egyptian opposition, by allowing a meeting in Sudan]. A Sudanese diplomatic source told AL-SHA'B that he was advised by sources close to the Egyptian Government that Egypt has no intention of holding the opposition conference in Cairo for several reasons.

Western Sahara

President Calls For UN Intervention on Peace Plan

LD2211110295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Republic, called on UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to intervene so as to prevent dire consequences at a time when the UN peace plan on Western Sahara is reaching an impasse. In a letter to the UN secretary general, Mr. Abdelaziz pointed out that the voters' identification process has been hampered since July 1995 by the introduction of 100,000 application forms for participation in the vote of people residing in Morocco.

People Said 'Impatient' To Return to Military Conflict

BR2111145395 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2005 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Unattributed report: "Saharan People Are 'Impatient' To Return to Military Conflict"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibiza, 20 Nov (EFE) — Omar Mansur, Saharan representative in Spain, asserted in Ibiza today that "our people are impatient to return to military conflict," because "they are disappointed by the UN role in the organization of the self- determination referendum."

Mansur, who was the Saharan Republic's foreign minister and governor of the camps set up in the Algerian desert, also demanded the Spanish people's solidarity with the Saharan nation, since "20 years of injustice are enough," he maintained.

In his opinion, Spain should "wash out the stain on its dignity" represented by the Madrid agreements and the partitioning of the Sahara between Morocco and Mauritania, coinciding with Franco's death.

He urged the Spanish people to "start a mobilization to promote action by the Spanish Government itself and the European Union" in favor of a final solution for the Saharan people, not forgetting "assistance for the exiles."

He emphasized that, in the course of 20 years, the Saharan people have given sufficient "proof of ability" to win the Spanish people's support in their struggle for independence.

The Saharan people, their representative in Spain asserted, accepted the holding of the self-determination referendum on the two-fold condition that it be organized by the United Nations and that the supporting document for taking part in it be the old Spanish identity cards.

In Mansur's opinion, pressures are being exerted on the United Nations in this connection, despite the fact that its secretary general, Butrus-Ghali, made a proposal in which he endorsed the demand for adopting the old Spanish identity cards as the essential document for exercising the right to vote.

Mansur met this afternoon with Mayor of Ibiza Enrique Fajarnes — "a friend of the Saharan cause," according to him — and gave a lecture at the DIARIO DE IBIZA Club on "Western Sahara: 20 Years of War; the United Nations and the Referendum" — an event organized by the Ibiza branch of the Association of Friends of the Saharan People.

GCC Defense Ministers Begin Session in Manama

Bahraini Minister Gives Speech

JN2111172095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1230 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 21 Nov (WAKH)—The defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states held their 14th session at the Bahrain Royal Meridien Hotel at noon today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief, and in the presence of GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi.

The [Bahraini] defense minister and the deputy commander in chief delivered a speech conveying the greetings of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain and the supreme commander; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief. [passage omitted]

The defense minister added: Today we face a phase full of accelerating changes and escalating challenges. The delicate stage in our region calls on us to unite our stand, resort to all means of cooperation and rapprochement, accelerate our steps, devote all efforts, and pool our resources to build a shining future for our joint military action. We are also called on to lay down the foundations for a Gulf defense order to achieve our common objectives and safeguard our achievements. Peace is maintained by force, and stability is protected by strong will; solidarity means strength and unity means loftiness.

He expressed the hope that this meeting will be a distinguished turning point to overcome obstacles and the beginning of a new stage to develop and strengthen military cooperation in order to shape a collective defense concept. [passage omitted]

Saudi Official: Saudi Arabia Secure, Stable

LD2111151795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1420 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 21 Nov — A senior Gulf defense official today reaffirmed the importance of collective security in order to protect the gains of the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member-states. The official — Saudi Deputy Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud — was speaking to journalists following a session held by the defense ministers of the GCC member-states at the beginning of a two-day meeting. Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said that collective security is a duty in order to protect the gains of the GCC. He reaffirmed on the other hand that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a secure and stable country and that this is an acknowledged fact. He added that what happened recently in Riyadh happened previously in other countries and that as the Kingdom is part of these countries therefore a matter such as this was expected to take place. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministers Resume Meetings

JN2211103695 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0820 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 22 Nov (WAKH)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers resumed their meetings in Manama this morning under the chairmanship of Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief.

The ministers will complete their discussion of topics listed on the agenda during today's meeting. These deal with fostering security cooperation among the GCC states.

Ministers Conclude Meetings

JN2211121095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1130 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 22 Nov 95 (WAKH)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers concluded their 14th session meetings in Manama at noon today. The meetings were chaired by Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force.

GCC Oman Summit To Adopt 'Important' Resolutions

JN1711170595 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1110 GMT 17 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 17 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has asserted that the GCC leaders' 16th summit, scheduled to be held in Muscat in December, will adopt very important resolutions for the benefit of the citizens of the GCC member states. The resolutions, he said, would cover political, economic, trade, security, and social issues, noting the great achievements of the 15th summit in Bahrain, which was chaired by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Regarding GCC plans to fight violence and terrorism following the blast that occurred in Riyadh last Monday, Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi denounced this criminal action which killed six people and wounded 60 others. He described the incident as a strange phenomenon in our secure societies and said it conflicts with the tolerant Islamic doctrine and our genuine Arab customs and traditions.

Shaykh Fahim also asserted that the GCC leaders and peoples would counter and foil such attempts to harm their steadfastness and determination to bring about development, growth, and economic and social security. He pointed out that the Muscat summit would study the recommendations made by the GCC interior ministers' conference which ended in Manama last Sunday.

While reviewing regional and international security developments, the ministers noticed that violence, terrorism, extremism, and drugs were escalating and taking the course of organized crimes.

Asked what the Muscat summit would do regarding the proposed security arrangements in the regional, Arab, and international arenas, Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan said that the GCC member states were making efforts to enhance defense and security cooperation. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, WAM, Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi said that the summit would discuss relations between the GCC and Iran and would ask Iran to respond to GCC member states' efforts to build good neighborly relations and cooperation in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence and noninterference in internal affairs. [passage omitted]

The GCC secretary general noted that the GCC summit had earlier adopted decisions to normalize relations between the GCC states and Israel in the future. He added that the GCC summit believes that the normalization process should be in harmony with the development of comprehensive peace, especially with regard to withdrawal from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly Jerusalem, the Golan, and southern Lebanon.

Asked about the repeated international demands to lift the Arab boycott of Israel, Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi said: It is not wise to speak about the boycott now because of the recent defiance of Arab and Islamic emotions, particularly the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem by 1999, as well as Israel's insistence on alleging that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. He added that the demand to lift the boycott now that such resolutions are issued in defiance of Arab and Islamic feelings is the talk of those who want to have everything without giving anything, and this cannot be added the GCC secretary general. [passage omitted]

GCC Chief Urges Not Discussing Boycott Yet

LD1811130195 Riyadh SPA in English
1234 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 18, SPA — Gulf Cooperation Council's Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi has affirmed that it is not wise at this moment to discuss the Arab-Israeli boycott in the light of recent developments which are of concern to the Arabs and Moslems due to the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 1999 as well as Israel's insistence on its stand to keep Jerusalem its capital for ever.

In a statement to the UAE news agency 'WAM,' circulated by it today, Shaykh al-Qasimi said the lifting of boycott at this time could not be taken up in view of the recent decisions which aim at gaining every thing and giving nothing in the return, adding that this does not represent logic.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Egyptian Police Assistance Requested

LD2111153595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1455 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 21 Nov — In a statement to SPA an informed source has reaffirmed that the Egyptian magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF's report on 20 November that His Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal has spoken to Egyptian officials and asked for the assistance of the Egyptian police was absolutely untrue, besides the fact that the contents of that article were not written on a sound basis and contravened fact and reality. The source concluded by saying that it is not strange for cooperation to take place in various spheres between the two fraternal countries — Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — within the framework of the excellent bilateral relations.

Paper Hints at Conditional Acceptance of 986

JN2211114495 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 95 p 6

[Article by Dr.Sami Sa'dun: "Reasons Behind Pressuring Iraq To Accept Resolution 986]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why has Iraq rejected Resolution 986 of April 1995; and, are there any new developments warranting its reconsideration? Why also is this strange persistence in pressuring Iraq to accept the resolution? The return to this subject is not only to explain the truth behind the false U.S. and western concern for the Iraqi people and the deliberate pressure and fabricated hullabaloo over the so-called rejection by Iraq of a "humanitarian" resolution, but also because there are still those who say: Why should we not accept this resolution for a temporary period, pending the application of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, in view of the alleviating effect it would have on our patient people after this long unjust blockade?

To begin with, we must underline the fact that Iraq has rejected this resolution, and before that Resolutions 706 and 712 of 1991 which are not different in substance or aim, for good and well-known reasons. So, there has been no change in the Iraqi stand, which says that like its predecessors 706 and 712, this resolution does not respond to the Iraqi people's basic concerns which are represented in the following:

1. Non-prejudicial of Iraq's sovereignty, and the assertion of its authority over all its territories.

2. The resolution must not be a substitute for the complete lifting of the blockade, and it should not delay the application of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 when its time comes.

Iraq is struggling hard to end the blockade, which was imposed on it unjustly and aggressively. Its acceptance of arbitrary resolutions, which have led to the destruction of its weapons banned under these resolutions and the operation of the monitoring system, as well as other resolutions such as the recognition of Kuwait and its border, which was imposed under Resolution 833, are categorical proofs of the Iraqi leadership's determination to expedite the application of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Iraq has been honest regarding every resolution, initiative, step, and measure which would help alleviate the burden on its people. Its aim has been humanitarian and free of any political motive, since it only has the aforementioned basic concerns in mind.

Had Resolution 986 been responsive to this aim, it would have been accepted as Resolution 706 or 712 of 1991, at a time when Iraq was in dire need of funds in the wake of the criminal aggression, which caused serious damage in all parts of the country. Thus, when the attempt was repeated and Resolution 986 was proposed in April 1995 as the Argentinian resolution, the logic was that the new resolution would be different from its two predecessors 607 and 712; that is, it would tackle the disputed points which made the Iraqi rejection categorical. But, since the aim of the drafters and proponents of this resolution was to prevent and delay the application of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 — especially since a joint French-Russian draft resolution on a phased application of Paragraph 22 had already been officially circulated among the UN Security Council members and the climate was also opportune, since the majority of the council member states were of the opinion that Iraq ought to be rewarded for its cooperation with the Security Council and that the council itself should fulfill its obligations toward Iraq, especially by applying Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 — Resolution 986 came with the same ill-will and biased aim. This occurred despite the intensive meetings which the Iraqi delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, had with Security Council members during deliberations over the draft resolution last April to block the way before those who claimed that Iraq had rejected a humanitarian resolution even before discussing it; and, despite the great efforts of the delegation so that the resolution would indeed be humanitarian and not one based on intrusion and deception in order to delay the lifting of the blockade and to steal Iraqi funds under the cover of tackling a humanitarian situation!

Thus, during the discussions and before the resolution was passed, Iraq rejected it, because it had not undergone any substantive change and its aims remained the same — namely, to entrench the anomalous situation in the northern part of the homeland and to dictate a specific relationship between Iraq and Turkey by forcing the exportation of a large quantity of oil through the Turkish pipeline! This precedence is unknown to the Security Council. This is in addition to the seizure of part of the oil revenues in order to finance the obvious deficit in the budget of the United Nations and its operational commissions in Iraq. In simple arithmetic, what Iraq would get from the 2 billion dollar revenue, if it were to agree to sell its oil under these conditional terms, is illustrated as follows: Thirty percent of the revenues, or $300 million, would go to the UN Compensations Fund and 15 percent, or $150 million would be paid to the outlaw Kurds who are protected by foreign forces in the northern part of the homeland. The resolution also takes a portion of the revenues to cover the expenses of the UN Special Commission, which has been entrusted with eliminating the weapons which Iraq is banned to possess or make. There is another portion of not less than 10 percent for the other commissions, such as the Border Demarcation Commission, the UN forces [UNIKOM] stationed on the border, and others. We should also add the huge expenses of the control and distribution regime, since it would require departments, employees, etc. In other words, the remainder would be a small amount that is hardly sufficient to ensure the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. For instance, the cost of the ration card for one month only exceeds $1 million [figure as published]

Accepting such a weak resolution would greatly disappoint our people, who hope to at least double the monthly ration and to improve the health situation. Acceptance of the resolution would only make a very slight and change which will have no effect on the situation whatsoever. Therefore, the basic aim of Resolution 986 is to tackle the financial deficit of the United Nations, or at least cover the expenses of its commissions, which are committing the crime of the blockade on Iraq and opening the door for mercenary work at the expense of our patient people, rather than ending their suffering. In addition to entrenching an anomalous situation in the north and supporting outlaw agents, the resolution is a vicious maneuver aimed at maintaining the blockade and disrupting Iraq's regional and international role and excluding it from the oil market for as long as possible; a situation which would enable the United States and its lackey oil states to make as much profit as possible.

Resolution 986 cannot be accepted under its present intrusive formulation, complex application mechanism, and clearly biased aims. If some people are wagering on traitor Husayn Kamil's despicable act, thinking that it has undermined the efforts which are being exerted to remove the unfair blockade on Iraq and that it has delayed the application of Paragraph 22, and that Iraq would eventually be compelled to accept Resolution 986, they are mistaken. The patient Iraqi people will not starve to death due to the extension of the blockade for a few more months. They have remained steadfast for more than five years.

These loyal people have replied eloquently to the enemies and their calumnies, sick dreams, and accursed blockade by renewing their absolute allegiance to their leader and president Saddam Husayn in a public referendum. Can they not see? Struggler leader Saddam Husayn's Iraq does not compromise its firm principles, nor does it give in under the worst of circumstances. Iraq will not be shaken by the fall of a single individual no matter who he is.

If the advocates of Resolution 986 indeed cared about the Iraqi people and the hundreds of innocent people who are killed daily due to the unfair blockade, they would have asked the Security Council, even before approaching Iraq, to implement its obligations, headed by the application of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, now that Iraq has fulfilled its own basic obligations concerning banned weapons.

What is the use of accepting Resolution 986 when it does not contain even a partial resolution of the human suffering? If, as they claim, that this is a partial solution to help improve the climate and soften positions toward Iraq inside the Security Council and not a substitute for the application of Paragraph 22, why do they not call for revising the resolution, removing what prejudices Iraq's sovereignty and independence and all that is viewed as interference in its internal affairs, giving Iraq the freedom to use its oil pipelines, whether through Turkey or the south and removing the complexities of the distribution and control system and leaving it to discretion in harmony with the supposed humanitarian aim of the resolution?

Is there anything new in the renewed call on Iraq to accept this resolution that responds to Iraq's concerns? Does the UN secretary general have sufficient powers to work out an application mechanism that takes into consideration the basic concerns, which Iraq has often reiterated and whose purposeful avoidance has been the reason for rejecting Resolution 986 and before that Resolutions 706 and 712?

Iraq does not reject any new serious initiative, which is free of any political aim and seeks to alleviate the burden of its people, and if it is also a step on the path of an early application of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. This is what Iraq has not seen in the so-called resolutions of "oil for food and medicine." These resolutions, God forbid, are aimed at turning our Iraqi people into refugees to be supported by the United Nations from their own funds and to be subjected to intrusive conditions prejudicing their sovereignty and independence, such as compelling them to sell the greatest part of their oil through the Turkish pipeline to reward Turkey for supporting the states of aggression on Iraq and to entrench the anomalous situation in Kurdistan. Entrenching the situation in Kurdistan would encourage the division of our country and the stealing and plundering of our funds to finance the UN operations of besieging Iraq and starving its people. Moreover, mere acceptance of the resolution would delay the application of Paragraph 22 indefinitely, and the enemies of humanity would prolong it as long as they can! For these reasons, Iraq refused to accept Resolution 986.

Paper Views Riyadh Blast, Saudi Opposition

JN2111124995 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report: "AL-JUMHURIYAH Publishes the Full Story of the Blowing Up of the Headquarters of the U.S. Colonialist Forces;" "Will the Riyadh Explosion Be the Beginning of Dramatic Events in Saudi Arabia?" "Six Persons Killed, Including Five Americans, and 60 Injured, Including 34 Americans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH — A European diplomat in Baghdad has described the huge explosion which took place in Saudi Arabia yesterday as a very serious message from the Saudi people to the United States and the world. He said that in this message, the Saudi people conveyed feelings that have been withheld for over five years. In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, the diplomat added that the size, place, and target of the explosion indicate that the Saudi opposition, having reorganized its ranks, has embarked on armed action against the U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, because they regard them as infidel troops desecrating the land of holy Islamic places, and whose only job is to fight the Muslims and loot their wealth. The European diplomat said that he had worked in Saudi Arabia for a long time, especially in 1992-93. He said he was able to observe that many Saudis were opposed to the war against Iraq and were sympathetic to the Iraqi people. They regard the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia as a violation of their sovereignty and holy places and a transgression against their will. The European diplomat refused to speculate on the expected results of the explosion.

However, an Arab ambassador stressed that the explosion proves the information circulated by diplomatic and intelligence quarters on the existence of a very secret Saudi opposition that has many supporters within the Saudi National Guard and intelligence agencies. This opposition has supporters even within the royal family. The Arab ambassador said that this opposition believes that the U.S. troops must leave Saudi Arabia immediately, and that the regime there must change so that Saudi Arabia can cope with the radical changes that have taken place in the region and the world.

There has been Saudi confirmation of the Arab ambassador's remarks. An organization calling itself the Tigers of the Gulf claimed responsibility for the explosion, which it said is the first in a series of explosions that will follow with the aim of ending the U.S. presence. The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh said it believes the explosion at the Saudi National Guard building was caused by a booby-trapped car. The embassy also said that a smaller explosion followed the first explosion, resulting in the killing of five Americans and the injury of 60 persons, including 34 Americans. According to world news agencies and television networks, U.S. military officials in charge of training the Saudi National Guard were occupying the building targeted by the explosion. However, Saudi opposition sources say that this building belongs to the command of the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, and includes a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency station.

News agencies cited Saudi residents as saying that a huge explosion almost like an earthquake rocked the center of Riyadh city. After the incident, the United States and Britain instructed their citizens in Saudi Arabia to be vigilant and take the necessary precautions. For his part, U.S. President Bill Clinton said that Washington would exert huge efforts to identify those responsible. Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh voiced anxiety that the incident may indicate growing anti-West sentiments. Some 35,000 Americans live in Saudi Arabia, most of whom are military personnel.

Radio Monte Carlo said that the Riyadh incident raises questions about the usefulness of the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia and the military cooperation between the two countries. Ghassan Salamah, Radio Monte Carlo's political commentator, said that cooperation between the U.S. Army and the Saudi National Guard dates back to March 1973 when an agreement was concluded to modernize and update the Saudi National Guard and to transform it into something like a regular army. Despite this longstanding cooperation, no similar incidents have been reported, and may not have taken place. Hence the seriousness of the incident, whether in terms of the number of those killed or injured, or the selection of the target. The targeted building is the headquarters of the U.S. military mission and the Saudi National Guard and is located in the heart of the capital.

Although no information has been made available so far about the identity of the perpetrator, it is clear that the incident targeted the military cooperation between Riyadh and Washington. The Gulf opposition has been criticizing the Western presence since 1990, and some leaflets have called for cooperation in this regard only between the Gulf and Islamic states. Dr. Salamah indicated a strong link between the explosion and those stands voiced over the past years.

For its part, CNN said that religious extremists in Saudi Arabia detest the U.S. military and political presence in Saudi Arabia. In the past years, the opposition in the Gulf states also insistently called for ending this presence. CNN indicated that to begin with observers used to question the ability of this opposition, but now the situation has become totally different.

Spokesman Dismisses Kuwaiti 'Lies' on MIA's

JN2111194895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY; date not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Officials of the Kuwaiti regime are still launching a disinformation campaign and telling lies regarding the so-called question of missing Kuwaitis in Iraq. Salim al-Sabah, head of the so-called national committee for Kuwaiti prisoners and missing people, claimed on 20 November that Iraq had determined the fate of 126 out of 625 Kuwaiti prisoners and missing people. He added that Kuwait had succeeded through its international contacts to put pressure on Iraq and force it to attend the meetings of a trilateral committee investigating this issue. He deemed this a strategic victory.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The statement of Salim al- Sabah is false. It is noticeable that the al-Sabah family continues to claim that there are Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. Iraq, however, has returned all Kuwaiti and other prisoners to their countries under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

The spokesman said that all prisoners were returned. What has been going on since the end of March 1991 is only an investigation into the fate of some missing people.

The spokesman added that the activities of the trilateral committee on missing people and its technical subcommittee, which works under ICRC supervision, prove that Iraq is cooperating in accordance with internationally recognized standards and rules in such cases.

The record of these two committees shows that the number of files investigating the fate of missing persons is 602 and not 625, as Salim al-Sabah claims. Iraq has provided information on the results of initial investigations on the missing persons. In addition, Iraq has reviewed other files. The number of files handled by Iraq so far totals 300. Four files were closed by Kuwaiti authorities after Iraq had previously discussed these files and the remains of a dead Kuwaiti were handed over to his family. This national was considered to be among the missing persons. The fate of a Kuwaiti female citizen was determined. The Kuwaiti authorities had claimed that she was missing, according to misleading information.

It is worthy of note that the trilateral committee did not include Saudi files, because they are not under its jurisdiction. In light of these facts, the lies and allegations of Salim al-Sabah and his ilk collapse. These individuals try to deceive people in Kuwait by spouting hollow lies and allegations.

Foreign Minister Meets French Official

JN2111135195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf yesterday met with Denis Bouchard, head of the Middle East Department at the French Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Iraq.

A friendly atmosphere prevailed the meeting in which the two officials discussed developing relations between Iraq and France to serve their common interests.

They also reviewed developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council, Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission, and the UN Security Council's obligation to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 away from any political pressures now that Iraq has implemented its own obligations.

Bouchard stressed France's desire to improve ties with Iraq. He also voiced France's support for a quick end to the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the continuation of the embargo and stressed that this position remains unchanged.

The two officials also exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual concern.

Ramadan Meets Vietnam's Ho Te; Talks End

JN2111200595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received Ho Te, Vietnamese minister of finance and head of the Vietnamese side to the Joint Iraqi-Vietnamese Committee, and his delegation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed deep satisfaction with relations between Iraq and Vietnam and with the development in these relations even under the unjust siege. Ramadan said this development, under these circumstances, is viewed as a basic pillar of a more comprehensive and diverse future cooperation. He noted leader President Saddam Husayn's concern and directives to promote Iraqi- Vietnamese relations to the level of the aspirations of both countries' people with the aim of reinforcing their relationship, their common objectives, and their struggle against the forces of colonialism to achieve freedom, sovereignty, and progress.

The vice president commended the positive results of the meetings of the Joint Iraqi-Vietnamese Committee in its current session in Baghdad. Ramadan added that this reflects the seriousness of both countries' officials in implementing what was agreed on, as well as their determination to overcome the difficult circumstances to achieve tangible, fruitful cooperation in all fields.

Ho Te conveyed to the vice president the congratulations of the secretary general of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Political Bureau of the party, the president of the republic, and the Vietnamese people to leader President Saddam Husayn and to the Iraqi leadership and people on his excellency's winning of the post of president of the Republic of Iraq. He added that his excellency's victory in the general popular referendum embodies the rally of the people of Iraq behind their leader. It also embodies a new blow dealt by the Iraqis to the forces of evil and aggression, the Vietnamese minister added.

Ho Te reiterated the Vietnamese Government's seriousness in continuing broad cooperation with Iraq under all difficult circumstances, noting that the Vietnamese leadership of the party and government, as well as the Vietnamese people, are proud of Iraq's stands and support for people seeking sovereignty, freedom, and independence. He added that the Vietnamese leadership and people value Iraq's firm stands in the face of all forms of plotting and aggression and the heroic Iraqi people's defiance of the unjust siege. This, he added, shows this people's genuineness and adherence to their sublime principles and objectives.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and head of the Iraqi side to the Joint Iraqi-Vietnamese Committee, and a number of officials from the Trade Ministry.

In another development, the Joint Iraqi-Vietnamese Cooperation Committee concluded its talks today. The talks, cochaired by Iraq Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Vietnamese Finance Minister Ho Te, dealt with ways of developing the friendly bilateral relationship.

Paper Calls For 'Genuine' Arab Reconciliation

JN2211133495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH called for a genuine and true Arab reconciliation based on adherence to the Arabism of Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, the symbol of the pan-Arab struggle.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party stresses that this reconciliation must seek to heal the rifts and narrow the gaps between the Arab countries on the one hand and between the governments and citizens of those countries on the other.

The paper says that the hostile powers took advantage of the regional situation afflicting the Arab nation, represented by the Arab officials' preoccupation with parochial concerns and disputes. Though looking complicated and thorny, those disputes are in fact artificial and suspicious.

The paper says that Washington has shown complete disregard for international legitimacy and for its commitments to its "friendly" Arab governments to appease Tel Aviv. The paper indicates the U.S. governments, whether Republican or Democratic, place their Zionist wishes above any other consideration.

The paper notes that the Arab League intends to present a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly in coordination with the Arab group at the United Nations. The draft resolution stresses that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories and that it is subject to Resolution 242 providing for the Zionist entity's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH warns the Arab governments against yielding to the U.S. pressure aimed to turn Jerusalem from an Arab, Islamic capital of Palestine to an eternal capital of the Zionist entity. The paper says any indecisiveness in this regard will allow the enemies, at least officially, to strip our Arab nation of the symbol of its struggle for unity and liberation.

Paper Reports on New Chemical Products

JN2111084795 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Amal Salman]

FBIS Translated Text] Engineering and technical teams of the State Enterprise for Chemical Industries, an affiliate of the Military Industrialization Organization, have managed to produce several national products for the agricultural, industrial, and health sectors, as their contribution to defeating the unfair blockade which has been imposed on Iraq.

Dr. Ghazi Faysal, director general of the enterprise, has said these products include pesticides for the agricultural sector. He added: We are producing these products by depending on our own national skills and locally available raw materials, thereby saving millions in hard currencies.

Dr. Faysal continued: The products also include chlorine for sterilizing water, caustic soda, ferrous chloride for treating water in power stations, zinc chloride for making batteries, aniline for pharmaceutical and rubber industries and tyres, xylene solvents for the paint industry, resins, agricultural pesticides, and phenol and benzoic acid for the resin industry and medicines. Dr. Faysal announced that the enterprise has also succeeded for the first time in the country in producing brake oil from castor oil.

In the health sector, the engineering and technical teams have managed to produce several important substances which cover a major part of the country's needs, including insecticides for combating cockroaches and ants, "Chemosam" for combating rats and mice, "Chemozol" for combating domestic flying insects such as mosquitoes, "Chemobloc" for combating rats in sewers and is very effective in eliminating rodents also, zinc phosphides for combating rodents, and "Chemofos" for combating pests in grain warehouses and silos. The engineering and technical teams have also managed to produce liquid fertilizers. The State Enterprise for Chemical Industries is considered a pioneer in this field. The enterprise produces the fertilizer "Al-Barakah" for the cultivation of grain and the fertilizer "Al-nahrayn" for the cultivation of vegetables.

Peasants Urged To Market Entire Rice Crop

*JN2011191495 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
9 Nov 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Radi Hasan Salman, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of Ba'th Party organizations in al-Najaf, al-Qadisiyah, and al-Muthanna Governorates, has called for using an educational method to explain President Saddam Husayn's directives about the need to market the entire agricultural crop, saying that the marketing process is a national and humane duty, which calls for the effective participation of everyone in order to ensure food for our steadfast people and break the unjust blockade.

Addressing harvest and marketing committees in al-Najaf Governorate, comrade Salman affirmed that the peasants and farmers who rushed to the polls during the referendum on the presidency of leader President Saddam Husayn enjoy the confidence of the leadership, and that they can be depended on to sell their entire rice crop to the state. The meeting was attended by al-Najaf Governor 'Ali 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun and the comrade secretary and members of al-Najaf party branch leadership.

Saddam Orders Hike in Cotton Purchase Prices

*JN2011191195 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 6 Nov 95 P 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad [INA] — Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered a revision of the purchase prices of cotton wool and cotton seeds as follows:

Cotton Grade	Current Price Per Tonne	New Price Per Tonne
Super	300,000 dinar	500,000 dinar
One	280,000 dinar	450,000 dinar
Two	250,000 dinar	400,000 dinar
Cotton Seeds	75,000 dinar	200,000 dinar

Cholera Reported; Iran Said To Close Border

*NC2011174295 Paris AFP in English
1559 GMT 20 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, Nov 20 (AFP)—Five people have died from cholera and more than 400 others have been stricken with it since the disease broke out earlier this month in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, UN officials said Monday [20 November].

Cities hit by the disease include Halabjah in the south-east of Kurdistan as well as al-Sulaymaniyah in the east and Hajj 'Umran along the northern border, UN and other officials said.

The Iranians have closed the border at Hajj 'Umran to prevent the disease from entering Iran, a Kurdish health official in Irbil, Majid Hamad Amin, told AFP.

The first case was reported 11 days ago near Halabjah, where thousands of people died in an Iraqi chemical attack in 1988.

"They increased steadily afterward until they reached more than 400. Two of them have died already," Amin said.

A UN official who had more up-to-date figures through his network said that a total of five people had died from the disease.

Amin feared that the cholera would continue to spread if the weather did not cool soon. "We don't even have a enough medicine to treat the existing cases."

An official with the World Health Organization (WHO) said most of the estimated 100 people infected with cholera in al-Sulaymaniyah are students.

"They got the disease because they're used to eating from small food stalls on the road," he said, asking not to be named.

In Baghdad, UN coordinator Muhammad Jizarri said a WHO expert was expected in northern Iraq in the next few days to take the "necessary steps against cholera."

INC Says 12 Dead in Blast at Ba'th Party Office

NC2111214795 Paris AFP in English
2054 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, Nov 21 (AFP)—Twelve people were killed and 20 wounded in a car-bomb attack in central Baghdad on offices of the ruling Ba'th party last week, the opposition said Tuesday [21 November].

A spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress [INC], a coalition of opposition groups, told AFP by telephone from London that the building which houses the Ba'th offices was destroyed in the attack last Thursday.

But residents of the Iraqi capital, questioned by AFP, said they heard no such explosion on the day.

A former Iraqi military intelligence chief who defected to Syria in late 1994, General Wafiq Samarra'i, said explosions and attacks now took place on almost daily basis in Baghdad.

PKK 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With KDP

TA2211091295 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] terrorists attacked a post belonging to the forces of Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP], in the Barzan region of North Iraq last night. Twenty PKK terrorists were killed. Meanwhile, 13 PKK terrorists have surrendered. According to information ANATOLIA obtained from KDP officials, 20 of the terrorists who attacked the post in the (Meroze) section were killed and their arms seized. Officials said that 10 mines, 150 hand grenades, and many rifles were found in searches conducted in the area.

It is reported that 13 terrorists have surrendered to the Barzani forces in the (Shiladi) District of Ahmadiyah. Meanwhile, terrorists who blocked the Batufah-Zakho highway attacked a patrol vehicle injuring four. It is also reported that the Zakho-Dohuk highway, which is one of the most important highways linking Turkey and North Iraq, is closed to traffic at night due to the lack of security.

Letter to UN Protests U.S. Overflights 1-10 Nov

JN1811082695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0720 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 18 Nov (INA)—Iraq once again protested to the United Nations violations by U.S. aircraft of Iraqi airspace for the purpose of provocation and surveillance.

In a letter to the UN secretary general, Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, said that from 1-10 November U.S. aircraft conducted 568 hostile sorties and several reconnaissance sorties. They also broke the sound barrier over residential areas.

Iraq's permanent envoy asked that the letter be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Peres: Agreement With Syria Possible Within Months

TA2211080795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that it is possible to reach an agreement with Syria within several months. Over the last few days, Peres had considered giving the Defense Ministry portfolio to Ehud Baraq and the Foreign Ministry to Hayim Ramon but ultimately decided to remain in charge of the Defense Ministry himself in order to help guide the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] toward a possible agreement with Syria.

The political forum made up of Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres; Ministers Beilin, Baraq, Ramon, Shahal, and Sarid; and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir will convene within several days to discuss how to promote the negotiations with Syria. This forum will continue to meet as often as twice a week and will oversee the political contacts with Syria, other Arab states, and the Palestinians.

[A similar report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 22 November adds that "the official team for negotiating with Syria has also started intensive work. This team is comprised of Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, who from now on will serve as both the coordinator of the peace process on behalf of the prime minister and the head of the negotiating team with Syria. Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich is not particularly pleased with Savir's appointment. Rabinovich will continue to handle the talks in Washington with his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Mu'allim. According to an agreement reached last night between Peres and Rabinovich, if the talks with Syria are upgraded to a higher level, the prime minister will decide who will be in charge of them. This team also includes Major General Dani Yatom, who is responsible for the military and security aspects of the talks and heads a team made up of officers from the IDF's Planning and Intelligence Branches, and Major General 'Uzi Dayan, the head of the IDF's Intelligence Branch."]

Savir To Head Negotiating Team on Syrian Track

TA2111191795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Talk between anchorman Ya'aqov Eylon, in the studio, and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen at the Ohel Shem Auditorium in Tel Aviv — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eylon] 'Imanu'el Rosen, in addition to the new ministerial appointments, you have something to tell us about a political move by Shim'on Peres concerning the continuation of the political negotiations.

[Rosen] Indeed. In addition to Shim'on Peres being a prime minister who possesses enormous power in the political and military spheres, he has surrounded himself with his associates. In addition to Yosi Beilin we are talking here about Uri Savir. The latter will remain director general of the Foreign Ministry, but will also be appointed to the post of coordinator of the political negotiations on behalf of the prime minister, a very powerful position. Savir will pursue all his activities on the Palestinian track, and at the same time will head the negotiating team on the Syrian track. He will be in charge of the Syrian track. Thus Savir will have a very significant and powerful role.

[Eylon] This means that Savir will take over the post filled until now by Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington. Does this mean that he is being pushed aside?

[Rosen] This is certainly a sharp blow to Itamar Rabinovich, who has over the past few days felt that something is wrong. Rabinovich, who has not gotten along with Shim'on Peres in the past, has still not issued a statement. In the past, however, he told his associates that if he is not in charge of the negotiating team for the Syrian track he will resign from his post as ambassador, and I assume we should expect such a statement by Rabinovich in the near future.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 21 November adds: "Sources in the prime minister's bureau say that Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich will remain in his post in Washington until the next elections and will participate in the negotiations with Syria. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz."]

Netanyahu: Rabin Stand on Golan Referendum Binding

TA1811132695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by 'Adi Talmor in the studio; date not given; from the "In the Current Situation" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] Do you agree that Rabin's murder has reduced your chances of being elected prime minister?

[Netanyahu] I do not want to deal with assumptions, seeing that we are just after the mourning period and have hardly recovered from one of the greatest traumas we have ever faced....

[Talmor, interrupting] I am basing this question on the new polls.

[Netanyahu] I suggest that you refrain from reading polls that were conducted and published in the eye of the hurricane. You know that in the eye of the hurricane, compasses very often veer wildly every which way. I suggest that we wait a little.

I believe that the crucial and fundamental problems still lie ahead of us. PLO personnel are currently registering East Jerusalem Arabs in anticipation of elections to a foreign governmental body. In other words, Jerusalem is slipping away before our very eyes. I have also heard that the government plans to accelerate the negotiations with Syria, and you know that this is leading to the Golan Heights issue. I believe that for the good of Israeli democracy and its future, we must soberly and calmly reexamine the crucial issues confronting us. It is these issues, I believe, that will largely determine the public's decision.

[Talmor] You know that peace has become very in, with or without the quotation marks. It looks as though Shim'on Peres will not find it very difficult to garner a public majority for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Are you concerned about this possibility?

[Netanyahu] If we withdraw from the Golan Heights in exchange for a peace treaty, for a momentary achievement, we will not be able to defend Israel and maintain a state of nonbelligerency in the future. I believe that the basic situation has not changed. Do you think anything has changed in Damascus?

[Talmor] No, but the public atmosphere in Israel has changed. How do you and the Likud plan to deal with this situation?

[Netanyahu] By speaking the truth. I have no tricks up my sleeve other than to speak the truth, and I believe that the situation around us has not changed. I believe that the Syrian regime has not changed its goals. Are you asking me whether I intend to change the contents of my statements because of what has happened? The answer is that I will certainly not, seeing that the situation we are confronting has not changed. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] With regard to the Golan Heights: It was Yitzhaq Rabin who promised to put a significant withdrawal on the Golan Heights to a referendum. Do you believe that Shim'on Peres and his new government are bound to follow this approach?

[Netanyahu] Just as I believe that this government should continue to serve and that only elections should bring about a change — and, surprising as this may seem to you, I believe that because we are still confronted with all the fundamental problems, the Likud will rise to power, and you can quote me on this — so I believe that it is important that Shim'on Peres honor the unequivocal commitment made by his predecessor to put the issue to a referendum. I find it difficult to believe that he will not do so. We must put the issue of the Golan Heights to the public for a decision. No deal must be made without first receiving the public's approval.

Russian TV Men Say Netanyahu Sought To Meet al-Asad

TA1711143095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv TEL AVIV in Hebrew on 17 November carries a 1,300-word article by Vered Levi-Barzilay on page 13 entitled, "I Was Present When Bibi Asked To Meet al-Asad." The article deals with a report according to which "Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu asked Dr. Andrey Popov, a correspondent of Russian national television, to arrange a meeting for him with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad." This was revealed by former "Knesset Member Gid'on Sagi, chairman of the Likud Tel Aviv District Branch, and Ze'ev Orbach, one of the directors and head of the Russian television desk." The latter name and title are not further specified. "According to Sagi and Orbach, it happened on 3 May 1995, when Netanyahu was interviewed by the Russian television station." The article says that, at the end of the interview, "Netanyahu addressed Popov directly and said: 'Could you relay a message from me to President al-Asad that I am interested in meeting him?'" The article says that Popov is a resident reporter in Cairo, has very good connections with Arab leaders, "and, mainly, has tight personal relations with the Syrian president."

The article adds that Sagi heard of this incident from Orbach, but the latter refused to allow Sagi to go public because "he cannot afford to be exposed or to expose Popov in this context." When Sagi tried to verify the story with Popov, when he was in Israel, Popov refused to confirm or deny it, and a week later said that he had "relayed the request directly to al-Asad, as asked." Then came the interview with al-Asad in which he said he feels unpressured by the Israeli elections, and the later interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which he charged Netanyahu of relaying messages to al-Asad. Netanyahu denied it at the time.

Sagi then met with Rabin and told him about the request, but Rabin was not surprised and told him that "it is clear and known that Netanyahu has tried several ways to relay a message to al-Asad." After Rabin was assassinated, the article says, Sagi "felt he must tell the story because he felt that he cannot leave the situation in which it is Rabin's word against Bibi's." This argument reportedly convinced Russian television's Orbach to confirm the report.

Likud Chairman Netanyahu "burst out laughing when he heard this story." His spokesman Shay Bezeq said in reaction: "Bibi has never tried to relay messages to al-Asad — not then, not ever. I was present during the interview. Popov asked Bibi whether he would be willing to meet al-Asad, and Bibi said: 'Certainly, just as I met King Husayn and Prince Hasan of Jordan. I am always willing to meet Arab leaders.'"

On 13 November, the TEL AVIV correspondent contacted Popov in Cairo. His reaction was "'I do not know anything about this. You may address your questions to Orbach in Israel.' And Orbach confirms it," the article concludes.

Timetable Set for Redeployment in Qalqilyah, Nabulus

TA2211084095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will complete its redeployment in Qalqilyah on 15 December and in Nabulus three days later. This was agreed upon by Major General Gabi Ofir, the commander of IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria, and al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, the commander of the Palestinian police in the West Bank. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the joint coordination and liaison offices in Nabulus and Qalqilyah will open on 26 November and that Palestinian officers will arrive from Jericho in order to work in them. The Civil Administration has commenced staff work on the construction of 11 border checkpoints in Judaea and Samaria that will open following the redeployment.

Labor's Zvili Opens Central Committee Session

TA2111174295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Labor Central Committee session has opened with a statement by Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili, who emphasized the heavy responsibility borne by the Labor Party in restoring the public's faith in political and civil establishments after something fundamental in our lives has been shaken.

Zvili warned party members not to discredit entire sectors of the population and not to place collective guilt on the religious public or the right-wing camp. He urged expanding the national consensus against violence.

Peres Presents New Cabinet Ministers

TA2111181395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1702 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Address by Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres while presenting the Labor ministers in his new cabinet to the Labor Central Committee, at the Ohel Shem Auditorium in Tel Aviv — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen, this time we had to form a government as soon as possible. The assassination was an unexpected event, and the country could not be left in limbo. This is the reason the government was established in less than a week.

At the same time, I would like to say that we would have liked to have had more time, but it seems to me that a very big chance arose which did not exist before to expand the government's base. The assassination of the prime minister certainly shocked the nation. I do not accept what some say about this being a passing cloud, and I definitely discern broad circles in religious Jewry and in the political center who are attempting to search their souls.

We will not stray from our political path; neither will we back away from the Labor Movement's historical responsibility not to split the nation. [applause]

We will fight every bad seed, but Labor has always been a party that includes religious and nonreligious members, a party that respects religion and a party that does not want to split the nation in any way.

Another interesting point we have learned in this brief period is that people have actually come to terms with the deeds that have already been done. There is no questioning the Oslo A and Oslo B plans; no questioning the agreement with Jordan; and no questioning the need to conduct negotiations with Syria. To the extent that disagreements exist — and I will not conceal them — they pertain to the future rather than the past. In my opinion, the fact that a broad consensus has emerged concerning the past largely contributes to this situation.

I will not make a speech now about the government's basic guidelines — Moshe Shahal has partly done that. I will be addressing the Knesset tomorrow and I do not want to take too much time today. In view of the fact that I am already chairman of the party — and I am speaking in this capacity — I will do my utmost to close ranks. There will be no settling of factional scores, no question about it. [applause]

I will honor all the pledges made by the late Yitzhaq Rabin [applause]. I consider it my moral duty and I will not stray from it. In addition, I believe it is good to have a united party. Also, I will try to introduce as much team work as possible in the government and in its attendant bodies, to exhaust all existing and new talents, as well as new talents that have not yet been discovered — all of them together — so as to truly open the party to the future.

Although the government will be formed tomorrow — we have the required parliamentary majority — we will continue to conduct negotiations, as party secretary Nisim Zvili and Moshe Shahal have said, with other circles in the Knesset to gain either their passive or active support; that is, their participation in the government. There apparently are parties that are prepared to support us without being part of the government, and there are those who are prepared to join the government.

We did not want to put off the formation of the government because, as I said before, we wanted to end the temporariness and uncertainty. The makeup of the government largely reflects our desire not to cause any shock, to maintain the current balance of power, and to fill the vacuum created by the assassination.

I will not read the names of the deputy ministers now because, according to procedures, every minister must appoint a deputy and bring his name before the government for approval. We will then read the list of deputy ministers, but here, too, I do not foresee any shock.

The list I am submitting to the Labor Central Committee for its approval is as follows:

Shim'on Peres — prime minister and defense minister;
Yosi Beilin — minister in the Prime Minister's Office;
Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer — construction and housing minister;
Uzi Bar'am — tourism minister;
Ehud Baraq — foreign minister. I am reading the names alphabetically, of course.
Mikha Harish — industry and trade minister;
David Liba'i — justice minister;
Ora Namir — labor and social welfare minister;
Efrayim Sne — health minister;
Ya'aqov Tzur — agriculture minister;
Yisra'el Qeysar — transportation minister;
Avraham Shohat — finance minister;
Moshe Shahal — minister for internal security. I would like to say a word at this point: This ministry will include the police — but not just the police — as well as other elements that I have detailed to Moshe and which I will present at the cabinet session tomorrow. This ministry will have broad and new duties.
Shim'on Shetrit — religious affairs minister;
Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital — minister. [heckling from the floor: "What about Hayim Ramon?"]

I am sorry [laughter from the audience]: Hayim Ramon — interior minister. In this case, too, I am very happy that we have healed the rift and closed ranks. I truly welcome Hayim upon his return home. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the applause for which I am wholeheartedly thankful, I entreat every one of you, Jewish, Arab, Druze, and Bedouin members, both men and women, to help this government fulfill its duty. We are serving a nation, not a party. We are serving a cause that is common to the Jewish, the Arab, the Druze, the Circasian, and Bedouin people. Let us all stand as one man to advance Israel, to advance the peace, to strengthen security, and to march forth with our heads held high. [applause]

Peres Sets Ministerial Team for Political Negotiations

TA2111162295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, Shim'on Peres announced the establishment of a ministerial team to conduct the political negotiations. The team will be made up of Hayim Ramon, Ehud Baraq, Moshe Shahal, Yosi Sarid, and Yosi Beilin.

Mr. Peres proposed that Police Minister Shahal assume responsibility for the Homefront Command. Shahal is supposed to reply to Peres' offer before the Labor Central Committee session.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that this afternoon Peres conferred with representatives of the National Religious Party, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and United Torah Jewry, who demanded legislation that would prevent Reform conversions. Mr. Peres asked Yosi Beilin to formulate a proposal on the issue.

The religious parties may abstain in tomorrow's vote on the new government. The discussion of their demands will continue.

Peres Notifies Knesset of Cabinet Formation

TA2111124695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Report by Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres just officially notified President 'Ezer Weizman and Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss that he has managed to form a cabinet, based on a coalition of 63 Knesset members of the Labor, Meretz, and YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] factions. [passage omitted]

Presents Cabinet, Vows To Continue Peace

TA2211105595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew 0908 GMT 22 Nov 95

[Address by Prime Minister-designate Shim'on Peres to the Knesset on the occasion of the presentation of his new cabinet — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Knesset Speaker, Members of the Knesset, honorable guests: Today is different from all the previous occasions when Israeli Governments were presented. The day of the establishment of a new government was usually a festive occasion for our democracy. Not this time. This time, the image of the late Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, is on our minds — the image of the assassination of the prime minister before our very eyes in the city square because of the conviction pounding in his heart. The world lost a statesman, the people lost a leader, the youth lost a symbol, and I lost a friend.

The despicable assassination only strengthened in us the awareness of the justice of our way and the need to continue it with greater intensity. For that reason, we must continue the effort to bring about a comprehensive peace, as Yitzhaq had hoped. I stand here before you and ask for your vote of confidence in the government I have formed, according to the law, after the president had charged me with the task.

My heart prays for the wellbeing of the people, the wellbeing of the state. My heart prays for peace from within and peace from without.

Since that evening in Yitzhaq Rabin Square, the nation has been immersed in a feeling of pain and crisis because the murderer's bullets were aimed not only at Yitzhaq Rabin's heart, but also at the heart of Israeli democracy. The bullets were directed at the leader of peace in order to murder the peace process. It was an attempt to destroy democracy, its institutions, its decisions. That attempt must fail, and we will foil it.

The bullets of the contemptible murderer ended the much-decorated life of Yitzhaq Rabin, but it will not destroy either the democratic process or the peace process. The great majority of the public showed maturity and responsibility. Many expressed remorse at the silence that accompanied the threatening rhetoric. The youth, in particular, showed that we have a new generation, full of sensitivity and internal conviction. They lit memorial candles, but also expressed hope. By praying silently and singing Israeli songs, the youth managed to unite the people and demonstrate a clear path for its aspirations. For the first time, parents felt that they had something to learn from their children.

The shocking assassination of the prime minister forces the Israeli political establishment to take real steps to end polarization between the people and the nation, to increase unity and reconciliation, and to avoid and prevent public violence. Within that context, I ask the speaker to permit me to thank the 120 members of the Knesset, including the majority of the opposition, who recommended to the president, despite the deep differences of opinion between us, that a representative of the faction of the assassinated prime minister be charged with the role of forming a government. That is an unequivocal declaration that in a democratic regime a government is not changed by assassination. It is proof that despite the lack of uniformity we can maintain unity. It is also a demonstration that beyond the political dispute — and political dispute is the essence of democracy — there is a very large moral consensus which has existed since Moses received the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai: Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not kill a Jew or an Arab, thou shalt not kill a rival or an opponent, thou shalt not kill anybody, because man has been created in the image of God.

In view of that experience, I call on all members of the house, in the government and the opposition, to adhere to such a responsible position. I invite the members of the opposition and its leaders to a dialogue on the ways and means we must adopt to uproot attempts to achieve a political outcome through violence, physical or verbal. We must not permit the murderers to achieve their aspirations. We must not allow democracy to be crushed. We must not permit a rift among the people. The essence of democracy is respect for freedom of speech for all and respect for the voice of the majority. The majority must respect the rights of the minority, including the right to act through legitimate means to bring about a change, even if the majority does not like the change.

However, the minority must respect the decision of the majority, any majority, even if it does not like its size and composition. The struggle against the violent fringe, standing up to those who want to destroy democracy, requires a joint effort by all parts of the house. We have a supreme duty to defend the very existence of democracy in Israel. It is because of democracy that we have been able to stand up to the tests of suffering, shooting, and war, although we have had differences between us. It has enabled us to deal with dangers from without even when there were differences from within. Democracy is now facing a murderous onslaught and threats from within. We must defend it again, fortify it, look after it, together. Democracy should not be seen as something obvious. We must increase education about it, explain its values, and inject it into all elements of the public and sectors of society. We must promise our youth that Israel — a fortress of democracy in the Middle East, which defends the dignity of man and the sanctity of life — will continue to be run by the rule of law.

We must teach that man loves man, man loves his people, man loves his nation, and man loves his freedom. That role, Mr. Speaker, is to a large extent imposed on the supreme democratic institution, the elected Knesset. The Knesset was established through free elections, but its moral existence depends on the trust of the people. I therefore call on the members of the Knesset to uphold the rules of proper debate, to conduct a political dialogue while listening to the other side and honoring mutual respect. We must avoid invectives. Logic must rule here. Verbal violence is violence, and sometimes a loose tongue causes things that must not be permitted. Let us give back to the Knesset its necessary honor and the people the trust in its supreme democratic institution.

We have sworn not to permit lawbreakers to harm the state and its institutions. We have sworn not to permit the bullies to rule. We will continue bearing the flag carried by Yitzhaq Rabin when he was gunned down, and others will bear it after us. No to violence; yes to peace. The government I have the honor to present to you will be established on that moral basis. It will be a government whose order of priorities will be similar to that announced by Yitzhaq Rabin when he presented his government to the Knesset three years and four months ago.

There will, of course, be changes due to the passing of time or events. The government will aspire to be the government of all the people, but with a clear policy. The government will aspire to keep in mind the long term and not just to find solutions for short-term needs. We can be proud of our achievements up to now, since anybody looking at the time that has passed since Yitzhaq Rabin formed the government can see that he — and we together with him — have kept our promises. We can see the overpasses, the junctions, and the multilane highways as living proof of a change in the order of priorities. We can see that unemployment has declined, inflation has been kept in check, economic growth has accelerated, immigrant absorption has improved, and education has been expanded. Israel is in the midst of economic prosperity, social betterment, and political momentum.

Mr. Speaker, all of that could not have taken place had another promise we made not been fulfilled: the resumption of the peace process — that is, the peace agreement with Jordan, the interim agreements with the Palestinians, the building of economic peace in conjunction with the political peace, the foundations of which were inaugurated in Casablanca and Amman, and our aspirations for peace with Syria and Lebanon.

All these have opened up a new world to us. Almost the entire world is now open to us. We can no longer assert that the entire world is against us. On the contrary, one can say that the world supports us, as evidenced by the honorable delegations that arrived from the four corners of the world to pay their last respects to a prime minister who led a process of peace. That was in Jerusalem, united Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, which will remain united and our capital and in which construction will continue — a Jerusalem in which we shall not permit any political activities capable of undermining its standing as the exclusive capital of the State of Israel. The Rabin government scored magnificent accomplishments, and we shall not permit anyone to obscure them. However, we will not be satisfied with resting on our laurels. Our gaze will be directed toward the future. This is our duty toward the younger generation, whose future, wellbeing, and welfare, will constitute the focus of the efforts of the government now being presented before you. The government's basic guidelines have been placed before the Knesset. They clearly indicate that the government's first mission will be the continued augmentation of security and promotion of peace. Israel's defense capabilities will be preserved in full without being eroded or weakened. At the same time, however, our duty is to complete the breakthrough toward peace as a complement to security. The main goal will be to attain a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, if possible, by the end of this century and to create a Middle East free of violence, bloodshed, terrorism, wars, or the reasons for all these things: poverty, ignorance, backwardness, and prejudices. We will act to resolve the conflicts and threats and to revitalize this ancient region on the basis of its spiritual legacies in conjunction with a modern economy and enlightened governmental practices.

With this aim in mind, we will increase our cooperation with Egypt, continue forging a full peace with Jordan, implement the interim agreement with the Palestinian, and support their democratic elections. We will be prepared to renew the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon. We will act on the basis of deep understanding with the United States and cooperation with Europe and Japan. I would like to tell Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that the logic of war between us is no longer valid and that the remaining differences can be resolved through negotiations in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I would like to propose to the Syrian president that we make a real contribution to put an end to the era of war in the Middle East. Let me clarify that peace between Syria and Israel, a peace that will be submitted to the public for approval, will be capable of creating the historic opportunity for bringing comprehensive peace to the entire region. The negotiations with Syria can come in the form of a comprehensive and regional agreement in all fields, whether political, strategic, or economic. The resolution of the conflict between our two countries can bring additional great benefits to the peoples of the region. Peace can bring a new standard of living to the peoples of the region, and a high standard of living is the best guarantee for stable peace. Political peace means an end to war. Economic peace means the beginning of growth.

As for us, I learned from my teacher and mentor David Ben-Gurion that being a light unto the nations is a Jewish aspiration that must also become part of Israel's strategy.

Members of the Knesset, the government being presented today will strive for unity among the Israeli people. We will not opt for ideological coercion, but neither will we tolerate any capitulation to violence. Instead of incitement we propose dialogue; instead of threats we urge respect for others' feelings. We will allow all individuals to live according to their beliefs and refrain from any religious or antireligious coercion. The desire to maintain domestic peace has been the Jewish people's aspiration for generations. Unfounded hatred led to destruction, whereas tolerance brought solace. Let me quote from the words of the late Rabbi Kook, a righteous man of blessed memory: If we are destroyed along with the rest of the world by unfounded hatred, we will be resurrected together with the rest of the world by boundless love. We, for our part, will pursue a dialogue with all the parties and all sectors of the public — religious and secular — in order to find ways to heal the rift and to bring all parts of Israeli society closer together.

We will maintain the status quo in the affairs of religion and state. Despite having reached agreement with the Palestinian entity, we have no intention to ignore the distress felt by the settlers in the territories in the wake of this agreement. We will not relinquish our responsibility for their security, nor shall we ignore their daily needs. Without violating these agreements, we will hold discussions together with them on ways to resolve the real problems that have arisen following the changes in the field or those that will come up in the future. The policy of security and peace requires that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police, and the Shin Bet take on additional missions. Thanks to them, we were able to make peace from a position of real power, a peace that will augment security. We will permit these institutions to carry out their new tasks while simultaneously preserving the IDF's deterrent capability vis-a-vis all external factors. We will continue building up our military power under the new circumstances while maintaining the IDF's quality, capabilities, and level of readiness. The IDF and the other security forces will continue to shoulder the burden of safeguarding the country's daily security and its borders. They will strike full force against terrorism and its perpetrators. The defense establishment will continue to develop sophisticated weapons in order to maintain Israel's qualitative edge.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to extend my thanks and a message of encouragement from this podium to all our security forces in the air, on land, and at sea, who guard our lives day and night. I would like to express my appreciation to the Shin Bet and Israel Police, who wage a constant battle against murderous terrorism and protect the lives of the country's citizens. Their overt and clandestine efforts are worthy of all praise. Wherever we shall turn, Knesset Members, we will continually bear in mind those who fell in battle or were wounded in war, the bereaved families, and of course the fate of the Israeli POW's and MIA's. We must be worthy of their sacrifice and suffering.

Knesset Members, there will be no major changes in Israel's economic policy. One does not argue with success. The economy will be based on continued growth, efforts to generate full employment, lowering inflation, raising the standard of living, reducing social gaps, increasing exports, reducing the trade deficit, improving the competitiveness of the Israeli economy, and granting priority to scientific research and technological development. We will aspire to having Israel attain a national per capita income equal to that of the United States or Europe, and an inflation rate similar to those countries. The success we have scored with our economic policy necessitates continued efforts to stabilize the economy in 1995 and the coming years. The expansion of the peace process will create additional economic opportunities. The fear of the Arab boycott is dissipating. The prospects for investment are growing, especially in light of the formation of the new economic frameworks agreed upon in Amman and Casablanca. One of the fruits of the new Middle East is a rise in tourism to the region in general and Israel in particular. In the first six months of 1995, there was a 17 percent rise in tourism in Israel compared to last year. Approximately 22,000 tourists arrived from Egypt and 17,000 from Jordan. Tourism is a peace industry. It creates an orientation of calm and a welcoming economic atmosphere. It also reflects the large potential inherent in open borders. Therefore, we will make serious efforts to develop a regional tourist industry for the benefit of all the area's residents.

As for the field of construction and housing, the government will focus on the need to alleviate problems for young couples, new immigrants, and large families. We should make it easier for them to purchase an apartment and pay off their mortgage. We will complete the dismantlement of the trailers and mobile homes and encourage the construction of proper, permanent housing.

The economic growth permitted the government to invest more in social issues and infrastructure. The investment in roads, houses, and energy was tripled. The education budget grew by 72 percent, and for the first time in the country's history it is equal in shekel expenditures to the defense budget. Relatively speaking, we invest more in education than any other country in the world. Immigration to Israel is our national aspiration. It is a focus for both prayers and policy. According to projections, an additional 300,000 immigrants will arrive in Israel by the end of the century, and within the next decade, the number of new immigrants will reach 1 million people. We will view the efforts involved in the absorption of these new immigrants as a central challenge. The fact that there is almost no unemployment among the immigrants constitutes an achievement of international scale. Israel is today the only immigrant country without pockets of immigrant unemployment or homeless immigrants in the street. We are aware of the fact that not all of the immigrants are employed in their profession and that some of them have failed to find proper housing. The government will step up its handling of these issues. However, above all, we will express our gratitude to the wonderful immigration wave from Russia and the CIS. These immigrants have brought with them a treasure trove of knowledge and education, coupled with a keen desire to integrate into Israeli society and learn Hebrew in order to be able to make a full and rapid contribution. We are still overcome with the excitement caused by the arrival of the special aliyah from Ethiopia, who despite their prolonged separation from all other Jewish communities, maintained their historic identity and national and cultural uniqueness. We must take care of the immigrants, not just the issue of immigration. We must address the personal drama of each and every one of them, and not just the quantity of immigrants. My great hope is that Israel serve not merely as succor for all the misfortunes of the Jewish people but also as a powerful magnet for all of the Jews throughout the world.

This government will deal with the unique problems and issues facing Israel's Arab, Druze, Bedouin, and Circassian citizens. Members of the Knesset, Israel's population is approaching 6 million. Almost 1 million of them are Arabs, Druze, Bedouin, and Circassians. For almost 50 years, we, the Jews and Arabs living in the State of Israel, have proved that honorable coexistence is possible, even while hostility rages along the borders with our Arab neighbors. The relations between Arabs and Jews in Israel can serve as a model for such relations with the other Arab peoples.

Knesset Members, over the past three years, unprecedented measures have been adopted to overcome gaps and distortions that were created long ago in the Arab sector. Budgets for children were equalized, allocations to the local councils were increased, land was released, new classrooms were built, and efforts were initiated to incorporate Arab intellectuals into the civil service and the government hierarchies, including the appointment of the first Arab ambassador by the Foreign Ministry. These beginnings must be buttressed and augmented. Just as we need real peace in the region, we also need true equality in Israel. We will work with the same intensity to achieve both goals.

This government will look toward our young generation, a generation that is prepared to defend itself while yearning in its heart for peace. The light of the candles lit by our youth during the mourning period is a Jewish light that will also shine on the gentiles. We, the older generation, will do our best to bestow full and real peace on our youth. We, the older generation, have to cope with dilemmas and overcome difficulties so that the next generation can build a free and just society, a prosperous, civilized, and democratic society which will carry the heritage of our forefathers into a new and progressive world. Our main asset is man. Israel is increasingly becoming a country of science and technology, and therefore the most important investment was and is the investment in our human potential.

In a memorial for the dead of the Civil War which tore the U.S. nation apart more than 130 years ago, President Lincoln made a statement that left a mark on the heart of every free and justice-seeking person, as follows: It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. President Lincoln was killed by an assassin before he completed the task that he had undertaken. A similar tragedy of the murder of a prime minister before the completion of his task happened to us, too, when Yitzhaq Rabin was killed. We will complete the work. We will act so that Israel shall have a new birth of civil freedom, human dignity, national security, and true peace. This should be the commitment fulfilled by our nation, for our nation.

Knesset Members, Yitzhaq Rabin concluded his Knesset address on the Oslo agreement as follows: I call on all members of the house to give us a chance to exhaust this great opportunity. He concluded with a quotation from the Song of Peace: Let the sun rise. We sang the Song of Peace — the last song of his life — together a short while before he was assassinated. This song is the first on our agenda. Let us allow the sun to rise and morning to arrive.

Mr. Chairman, we have placed the new government guidelines and all documents pertaining to its establishment, including the coalition agreements, on the Knesset table. Now, Mr. Chairman, in accordance with Article 15 of the Basic Law: The Government, I am hereby honored to present to the Knesset the government I formed after being so entrusted by the honorable president of the state. I ask the Knesset to voice its confidence in the following government [all names, except for the prime minister, in alphabetical order according to the Hebrew alphabet]:

Shim'on Peres — prime minister and defense minister;
Shulamit Aloni — minister of communications, science, and the arts;
Yosi Beilin — minister in the Prime Minister's Office;
Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer — construction and housing minister;
'Uzi Bar'am — minister of tourism;
Ehud Baraq — foreign minister;
Mikha Harish — industry and trade minister;
David Liba'i — justice minister;
Ora Namir — labor and welfare minister;
Efrayim Sne — health minister;
Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital — minister;
Ya'ir Tzaban — immigrant absorption minister;
Ya'aqov Tzur — agriculture and rural development minister;
Yisra'el Qeysar — transportation minister;
Amnon Rubinstein — education, culture, and sports minister;
Hayim Ramon — interior minister;
Gonen Segev — energy and infrastructure minister;
Avraham Shohat — finance minister;
Moshe Shahal — minister of internal security;
Shim'on Shetrit — minister of religious affairs;
Yosi Sarid — environment minister.

Thank you.

NRP, Tzomet Ready To Join Coalition

TA2211075495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Meretz Minister Shulamit Aloni supports the continuation of contacts between the Labor Party and the NRP [National Religious Party] in an attempt to broaden the coalition — this, contrary to the position of Minister Yosi Sarid who rejects the document of understandings between the Labor Party and the NRP. Aloni nevertheless stressed that Meretz would demand to review the details of the Labor Party's understandings with the NRP before any final agreements are reached. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Minister Yosi Beilin, who was in charge of coordinating the contacts with the religious parties, said that the Labor Party was determined to continue the talks with the aim of expanding the coalition.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 22 November carries a similar report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel with details of the document of understandings between the Labor Party and the NRP. Quoting three clauses from the document which deal with political issues, Deqel reports that "any agreement reached with Syria will have to be endorsed by the public before being signed in full. Any agreement pertaining to the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians will be brought before the people for approval in the next elections. The next stage of redeployment in Judaea and Samaria will be formulated on the basis of agreement among all the coalition factions as well as its supporters from the outside, or in other words, with the approval of the NRP." Deqel goes on to note that "NRP Knesset Member Hanan Porat has said that as far as the NRP is concerned, he is prepared to sign an agreement. Everything now depends on Shim'on Peres."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 November in a page A4 report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal adds that the document of understandings stipulates that "no agreement will be signed with Syria before the elections are held. The construction drive in Jerusalem will continue, and the government will act to close PLO institutions in Jerusalem." HA'ARETZ notes that the document states that "one of the cabinet ministers will set up a committee with the participation of representatives of the NRP and the Jewish settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to discuss ways to augment the personal security of the settlers and deal with their day-to-day problems. The document has also been presented to the Tzomet faction. Sources in the Labor Party said that Tzomet is also prepared to join the government, or at least support it from outside the coalition, on the basis of this agreement.]

Al-Kabariti Criticizes Syria, Reviews Palestinian Ties

JN2211102295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 22 Nov 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nabil al-Ghayshan]

FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with AL-ASWAQ, [Jordanian] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the following: We believed that we understood Syria's stand. But, things became a bit confused when Syria attacked the Amman economic summit while it showed enthusiasm to participate in the Barcelona political, economic, security summit.

In reply to Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's recent accusations against Jordan, the foreign minister said: Three weeks ago, Syria made very negative statements on the peace process, and blamed the Israeli side of obstructing the peace process in the region. Now, we hear very moderate talk implying Syria's readiness to deal with Israel to have the peace train resume its trip toward the Golan.

Al-Kabariti said: We also thought we understood the Syrian stand which attacked and criticized Iraq from the beginning of the war with Iran until Husayn Kamil came to Amman. Now, Syria accuses Jordan of seeking to divide Iraq while everyone knows that Jordan's policy is to prevent the legalization of the current de facto division in Iraq and to end its people's tribulation to enable them to exercise their right to live in a free and dignified manner.

Al-Kabariti said: Accordingly, we cannot but describe the dualism in the Syrian discourse as political hypocrisy.

On the other hand, al-Kabariti denied that Jordan and Israel are holding consultations on Shim'on Peres' statements on a Jordanian- Palestinian-Israeli confederation. He said: If Jordan, Israel, and Palestine hold any serious discussion on regional arrangements, this does not go beyond the economic dimensions of the countries which have signed peace agreements.

Al-Kabariti reiterated Jordan's stand on the disengagement decision with the West Bank by saying: Going back on this decision is out of question. Any future relationship between Jordan and Palestine will not be discussed before a Palestinian national state is established, the Palestinian people are allowed to exercise their right on their soil, and the issues of the refugees and Jerusalem are solved.

The foreign minister confirmed reports on Jordanian-Palestinian talks to seek a mechanism that will allow some displaced Palestinians in Jordan to participate in the Palestinian legislative elections to be held in February. The Jordanian official said: The issue was discussed with a Palestinian delegation a few days ago. The Palestinians in question are those Palestinian citizens who live in Jordan, who do not hold Jordanian citizenship, but who have two-year passports and are not registered in the voters registers in the kingdom as they have no civil registration card. Any person who has a civil registration card and is registered in the voters registers is a Jordanian by law.

Within this framework, a diplomatic source says that Israel objects to the registration of such people as they do not reside in Palestinian territory. Israel's conditions for voter participation in the elections are that the voter should have resided in the occupied territories for four successive years if aged 30 to 40 and three years for persons aged 40 and above.

Two Libyans Said on Mission To Assassinate Officials

MM2111164495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Jordan Pursuing Two Libyans Accused of Threatening Its Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Security sources in Amman have said that the Jordanian authorities are pursuing two Libyans who managed to cross the Jordanian border illegally. They are believed to be planning to carry out actions to disrupt security.

The sources pointed out that the two Libyans, Miftah 'Ali Mas'ud and Kamal Jum'ah 'Ali, are wanted by Jordanian security authorities "in connection with a very important security case, and their photographs have been distributed to all security units, border crossings, and airports." Jordanian newspapers yesterday published their photographs, citing the public security directorate as saying that a substantial financial award would be granted to anyone who supplies information leading to their arrest.

The Jordanian security sources did not specify the reason for the Jordanian authorities' pursuing the two persons to arrest them. However, they said that the two entered Jordan illegally. For its part, the Libyan Embassy in Amman has said that it has no information about the two persons in question.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained information to the effect that the two Libyan citizens infiltrated Jordan from a neighboring Arab state, and that they are assigned by a certain quarter to assassinate Jordanian officials and figures.

The information refers to an assassination list containing the names of a number of officials and journalists to be assassinated on the pretext that they led the recent campaign against Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Libya following the expulsion and deportation of tens of thousands of Palestinians and Arabs.

Some observers believe that the two Libyans infiltrated Jordanian territory with the help of a Palestinian organization. The Jordanian authorities had arrested some Palestinians because of activities described as "harming Jordanian national security."

The Jordanian authorities fear that a certain organization might have hidden the two Libyans and provided them with two forged passports to facilitate their escape from the country.

While the case of these two Libyans is expected to further exacerbate the already deteriorated relations between Jordan and Libya, Jordanian political circles view this question as a serious sign, especially as there is a prevalent belief among these circles that a cycle of violence, assassinations, and bombings [is on the way] in the region.

King Husayn of Jordan said in his address to the Army, the intelligence service, the public security service, and civil defense that Jordan is not Libya, and that he, that is the Jordanian monarch, is not Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He was commenting on the Palestinians' being expelled from Libya to declare their rejection of the self-rule agreement.

All the Jordanian newspapers without exception launched a fierce campaign even against Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi personally because of Libya's expulsion of thousands of Palestinians and Arabs.

Further on Wanted Libyans

JN2211093995

[Editorial Report] Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 20 November publishes the following front-page report on the two libyans who reportedly crossed into Jordan illegally:

"The Public Security Directorate allocated a large financial reward to anyone who has information about two Libyan nationals or their whereabouts. They are Miftah 'Ali Mas'ud and Kamal Jum'ah 'Ali.

"AL-DUSTUR learned that the two persons managed to enter the country illegally and are wanted by Jordanian security authorities in connection with a very important security case. Their pictures have been distributed to all Public Security units and published in the local press in a bid to apprehend them."

Another report appearing on the front page of Amman AL-DUSTUR on 21 November publishes the photographs of the two and says:

"The Public Security Directorate allocated a large reward to anyone who has information about Miftah 'Ali Mas'ud and Kamal Jum'ah 'Ali, whose photographs appear above and who are wanted in connection with the crime of embezzlement from a Jordanian company."

Amman-Based Iraqi Firms Ordered To Leave

JN2111155795 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 22 Nov 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-BILAD has learned from informed sources that Iraqi Oil Minister 'Amir Rashid, who is in charge of following up the file of Iraqi chemical and biological weapons with the UN experts tasked with eliminating Iraqi mass destruction weapons, secretly visited Amman two days ago to discuss with the Jordanian Government several projects, including an Iraqi oil pipeline to the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah.

The Iraqi side said it is committed to implementing the project within Iraqi territory if Jordan gives the green light for the project. Iraq will grant Jordan facilities and incentives to begin the implementation of the said pipeline, which will constitute a new outlet for the exportation of Iraqi oil in the future. Iraq also pledged to supply Jordan with its oil needs at prices less than those on the world market.

The visit comes a few days after the Jordanian Government's decision to ask several Iraqi companies operating in Jordan to liquidate their business activities over a two-month period. The two-month period became effective on 15 October [as published] 1995. The decision is to liquidate some companies and institutions that are financed by Iraqi government quarters or Iraqi officials. The decision covers investment companies, industrial plants, and export and import offices specialized in supplying Iraq with foodstuffs, paper, tires, and other commodities.

The ministry of industry and trade also warned many Jordanian and Iraqi quarters working as middlemen and brokers between the two countries. The direct reasons for these measures have not been disclosed. A responsible source in the ministry told AL-BILAD that the issue has nothing to do with the exacerbation of diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Amman, adding that the measures are not unusual, but are routine organizational measures.

Explaining its measures, the ministry said that it is in line with Jordan's official response to the international resolutions on the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

Many large Iraqi companies have been operating in Jordan over the past several years despite the embargo. They have been running vital business and trade operations between the two countries, which have enabled Jordan and Iraq to benefit from these transactions away from the international monitoring of Iraq.

Some of these companies, which have budgets of millions of dollars, are the Al-Riyad factories for the processing of foodstuffs and chemicals, the al-Iman group, and many other companies which work in food processing and trade exchanges.

These Jordanian measures were taken in light of information received by the Jordanian Government from General Husayn Kamil. The defector disclosed that Iraqi firms operating in Jordan are involved in political activities and seek to achieve political objectives for several influential Iraqi personalities, including 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. It is noteworthy that many Iraqi firms in Jordan are largely owned by Iraqi officials and President Saddam Husayn's relatives.

It is not yet clear whether these Jordanian measures will harm vital Jordanian trade interests. However, a senior government official told AL-BILAD: Such measures cannot be taken before giving the issue thorough consideration.

In parallel with these Jordanian measures, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry asked the Iraqi Embassy in Amman to reduce the number of its diplomatic mission from 54 to 18 administrative officials. This is because some Iraqi diplomats are carrying out activities that violate diplomatic norms. AL-BILAD previously published a report in this regard.

Jordanian sources told AL-BILAD that the Foreign Ministry decision follows a noticeable increase in suspicious contacts and activities carried out by embassy personnel. This decision was also made because the number of Jordanian diplomats in Baghdad is 18.

The Jordanian Government has also taken some measures toward Husayn Kamil. Information says that the Iraqi defector has so far failed to establish a large network of contacts to help him topple Saddam Husayn. In addition, Husayn Kamil has failed to convince the Iraqi opposition forces that he is a good candidate that can be relied on to transform the regime. Iraqi opposition forces view Husayn Kamil as a good source of information rather than a catalyst for change.

Husayn Kamil's efforts to publish a newspaper in Jordan have not succeeded despite contacts by his assistants and followers with Iraqi intellectuals and journalists residing in Jordan. Sources close to Husayn Kamil say that he asked the Americans to finance a radio station beamed to the Iraqi people. Husayn Kamil wanted to establish this station on the Iraqi-Jordanian border. However, the Jordanian Government refused to establish this station on its territory. However, the U.S. Government supports this plan. A U.S. Government representative met recently with Husayn Kamil and told him that the United States is willing to finance this plan from frozen Iraqi assets in the United States.

Initial estimates put the cost of the station at $25 million. The Americans have pledged to pay the money provided they have a hand in the beamed programs. AL-BILAD has learned that a ceremony was held at the 'Amrah Hotel on Fifth Circle to sign an agreement in this respect, in the presence of representatives from the U.S. Embassy and Husayn Kamil and his aides.

Since the Jordanian Government refused to host this radio station, Husayn Kamil and his aides thought of Syria. They were given the go-ahead to establish this radio station near the Iraqi border on Syrian territory. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Speech Restates Stance on Peace

NC2111192195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 95

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi marking the anniversary of Lebanese independence; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] O Lebanese: In my speech to you about a month ago I defined two priorities: Liberating our occupied land in the south and western al-Biqa' and completing the process of overall revival. The whole world is now aware that Lebanon will not relinquish one iota of its rights and that it will not change its national stance whatever the temptations or pressure.

We want an honorable peace. We are for a fair and comprehensive peace. We are not the ones who delay establishing this peace. Those who rushed toward peace are no more satisfied than we are. We appeal to our brothers to enhance solidarity with us. Where are the advocates of Jerusalem? Where is the unified Arab stance on Christian and Islamic holy sanctities? Where is the international stance on rights and international legitimacy?

We cling to our stance that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks will run in tandem in the negotiations in honor of Arab dignity and our holy rights. Developments in the region have proved that no one can have peace without having peace with Syria and Lebanon or at their expense.

O Lebanese: The strength of our domestic unity will consolidate our progress toward restoring our rights. No one can slice off any part of Lebanon if the Lebanese remain united. The unity of the land stems from the unity of the people and their state. Our safeguarded sovereignty stems from all of us rallying around the State. Our country is founded on trust. Now that our country is satisfied with its political situation, it remains for us to forge ahead to address our economic, social, developmental, cultural, and educational circumstances, issues that receded because of the ordeal and the repercussions of events experienced by us. Our efforts are now focused on balancing our budget and paying off our debts. We cannot solve all our problems overnight. But Lebanese cohesion will facilitate and expedite solutions. We appeal to all Lebanese — residents and expatriates — to close ranks and cooperate to promote reconstruction. [passage omitted]

U.S. Embassy Statement on Riyadh Bombing Cited

NC2111140195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated text] We have received the following statement from the American Embassy in Beirut: The American Embassy in Beirut thanks all Lebanese individuals and groups for their sentiments and condolences over the death of the American nationals killed in the terrorist blast in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. Embassy expresses particular thanks and gratitude to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Shaykh Rafiq al-Hariri.

What Lebanese leaders and citizens have done is considered an encouraging sign that asserts Lebanon's rejection of terrorism before the international community.

The United States encourages Lebanon to continue emphasizing this praiseworthy stance by approving international agreements and documents against terrorism. The Lebanese Government is considering these agreements. The United States hopes the Lebanese Government will act quickly to find a fair solution commensurate with the cruel nature of a number of crimes, including crimes that are still pending in the judiciary. Among these terrorist crimes are the 1976 assassinations of U.S. Ambassador Francis Meloy, cultural attache (Robert Goering), and their driver, Muhammad al-Maghribi. The adoption of severe measures within this framework will show the international community that Lebanon has overcome the tragedy of the war years and returned to the canopy of law.

Egyptian Arrested for Threat Against U.S. Embassy

NC2111180095 Paris AFP in English 1506 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Nov 21 (AFP)—Police have arrested an illegal Egyptian immigrant who tried to swindle the U.S. embassy here out of 25,000 dollars with a terrorist threat, newspapers reported Tuesday [21 November].

Sami Isma'il al-Jundi, 28, who illegally entered Lebanon in February, sent the embassy a letter signed the "State Justice Organization" threatening an attack unless he received the money.

The embassy was told to leave the money with a "courier," according to the letter.

Al-Jundi arrived at the embassy's security office on Sunday to collect the money and was immediately arrested by police.

The amateur blackmailer told a court that he was only doing it for the money, adding that he would later have demanded another three million dollars if the scam worked.

The U.S. embassy had no comment on the matter.

Situated in the north of the Lebanese capital, the embassy looks like a fortified bunker. Diplomats taking up their post at the embassy or at the end of their term use a helicopter link-up with Cyprus.

Buwayz Discusses Ross Visit, Syria Ties, Peres

JN2111175795 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Nov 95 p 13

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Muwaffaq Madani in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin by Israeli extremists resulted from a process of incitement generated by the Israeli leadership over a period of 40 years. He added that the Israeli people have been accustomed to listening to hostile propaganda against the Arabs. Hence, when the Israeli leadership wanted to opt for peace, half of the Israeli people stood alongside it, but the other half continued to advocate the old positions.

In an exclusive statement to AL-BAYAN, Buwayz said Rabin's murder embodied the state of the Israeli political currents established on ideological, religious, and political extremism and which had been hiding beneath the ashes throughout recentt years. But today these currents are divided into one camp which is open and realistic and which seeks a sensible and acceptable peace, and a second camp that only wants peace based on impossible terms; and also a third camp, which does not want any kind of peace and which seeks to keep Israel in a state of mobilization. [passage omitted]

Buwayz said the motive behind the recent Israeli air raid on the township of al-Na'imah, a suburb of Beirut, is still unknown. He asserted that the raid was unjustified and was not a reply to any military operation against Israel. He said the raid could have been planned prior to Rabin's murder in the wake of the operation in which nine Israeli soldiers were killed. Perhaps the Israeli Army did not inform Peres of this raid in advance, he noted.

Buwayz added: What is even more serious is the fact that Peres is trying to deflect the accusation that he is expediting peace with a show of force on the security level in terms of firmly dealing with extremists inside and outside Israel in an attempt to inoculate himself within Israel against charges that he is being lax toward Israel's security.

Buwayz viewed this possibility as a grave danger because by so doing Peres will be yielding to the blackmail of extremists who will force him to use unjustified methods to satisfy them. Buwayz was not surprised by the U.S. position following this raid. This position failed to distinguished between the victim and the oppressor. He asserted that some general U.S. statements do an injustice to one party.

Regarding the visit of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, Buwayz said: I believe that it comes at the request of Peres, who wants to learn about what was concealed from him during Rabin's rule. Peres was the architect of the peace process on the Palestinian track, but the Syrian and Lebanese files were kept away from him and were directly administered by Rabin and the Americans in the presence of Ehud Baraq, an aide to Rabin. Before negotiations resume, Peres might be in need of completing his information through Ross regarding all that constantly took place away from him in this regard.

Buwayz added: Ross's visit will be more in favor of briefing Peres on the atmosphere of what was being worked out in his absence than in favor of resuming the negotiations. He stressed the need for consultations and coordination with Syria. He said that his recent visit to Damascus and his meeting with President al-Asad were a natural thing, and that it is unnatural not to hold consultations in this phase.

Buwayz said Rabin's murder will change many facts on the ground, and that Rabin and Peres must differ in their ways and practices. Rabin's murder will have a great impact on the peace process. This requires consultations between Lebanon and Syria in order to assess Peres' character in light of his previous positions and practices, the political structure around him, his status inside the Labor Party, the Labor Party's status inside Israel amid the Likud and extremists, and how the extremists will be dealt with. We discussed these issues with President al-Asad.

Buwayz pointed to working out a Lebanese-Syrian concept regarding the various possibilities in Israel as well as to holding consultations on whether there is any need to amend our criteria. He asserted that the visit of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was paid for the same reasons for which he met with the Syrian leadership. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Conveys Independence Day Wishes

NC2111180395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has received a cable from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the anniversary of Lebanon's independence day.

President al-Asad expressed his warmest congratulations to the Lebanese people and praised the growing ties of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two countries. President al-Asad stressed in his cable Syria's desire to extend all possible assistance to Lebanon to liberate its south and western al-Biqa' from the Israeli occupation.

Israel Releases 5 Detainees From al-Khiyam Jail

NC2111180495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces today released five detainees from the al-Khiyam prison. They include: 'Abdallah Sawi from al-Tayyibah, Antoine Constantine from east Sidon, Yusr Sarhan from Kafr Killa, and 'Izzat 'Akar from al-Khiyam. The four remained inside the occupied border strip.

Security sources reported that the fifth detainee released is an Algerian called Musa Abu-Dahhan.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC2211073395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance continued to deal painful blows to the Zionist enemy and his Lahdist [South Lebanese Army] agents. At 2045 last night, an Islamic Resistance group detonated an explosive charge as a Zionist infantry patrol was passing on the al-Dabshah road. Several Zionist troops were either killed or wounded in the blast.

Elsewhere, the martyr Muhammad Murtada group attacked a car belonging to the agents' intelligence service on the 'Alman road yesterday afternoon, using machine guns and rockets. The car's passengers were either killed or wounded. Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance support unit bombarded the 'Alman position and succeeded in demolishing the position's fortifications.

The occupation forces' artillery shelled the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Tibnit, Kafr Rumman, and 'Arab Salim yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

In another development, the fate of the three fishermen, who were abducted by the enemy naval forces south of Tyre, is not yet known. The three fishermen were carted off to al-Naqurah coast.

Radio: Israeli Call for Monitoring 'Impossible'

JN2111162695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister-designate Shim'on Peres has expressed optimism over the anticipated peace talks with Syria and said there is a chance for progress. Meanwhile, it was announced in Israel and the United States that Dennis Ross will return to the region within a week to start shuttle tours aimed at advancing the peace process on the Syrian track. It was also announced that Peres will leave for Washington on 11 December, bringing a bunch of ideas on the Israeli-Syrian negotiating track.

Observers agree that the road to real progress will be paved if the new Israeli Government employs the prevailing circumstances following Rabin's assassination. This will also be true if the new Israeli Government shows a real change toward peace with Syria in response to its just demands — such as a full withdrawal from the Golan — after the hesitant policy adopted by the former Israeli Government, especially toward the Syrian track. Talks on this track stopped after Israel demanded the creation of monitoring [muraqabah] stations on the ground. Syria rejected this demand, considering it a consecration of the occupation and a retreat from what the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff have agreed on during their last meeting in Washington regarding equitable [mutakafi'ah] and even [muta'adilah] security arrangements.

If Shim'on Peres, Israel's new prime minister, is serious about his peaceful inclinations and about his statement that peace is more important than the elections, then this must be reflected on the ground. Syria is only demanding its rights. These rights are underscored by historical and geographical facts and UN resolutions; that is, the full return of the Golan and Israel's comprehensive withdrawal from it to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Some Israeli officials are back to talking about the creation of monitoring stations on the ground and testing Syria's intentions. In other words, they are back to talking about impossible conditions. This will not facilitate the peace process, and will not create a suitable climate for serious talks. It is high time for all Israelis to fully realize that Syria will not relinquish a single iota of the Golan's soil or the right of the Golan's people to return to their territories, restore their property, and exercise a normal life away from threat.

Occupation has not on any given day provided Israel with security. Occupation will not provide Israel with security, neither in the present nor in the future. A real, just, and comprehensive peace alone can provide security and stability. For its part, in an effort to dispel Israeli fears, Syria agreed to lay down even [muta'adilah] and symmetrical [mutanazirah] security arrangements on both sides of the June 1967 borders. By doing so, Syria proved to the world its sincere stand on peace and its adherence to work toward a region free of wars and tensions.

Syria assesses the credibility of any party through that party's actions and stands. It considers Israel's full compliance with Security Council resolutions, the bases of the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace principle a criterion for any credibility. Syria strongly supports a firm, lasting peace if Israel responds to its objective requirements; meaning a full withdrawal and the restoration of rights to their owners. However, under no circumstances will it accept a solution that does not restore its land and consolidate its full sovereignty.

Israel Urged To Give Up Ground Stations Demand

JN2211124795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today headlined "A Return to the Bases and Principles of Peace," AL-BA'TH notes the contradictory Israeli views and stands on the recent talks that Dennis Ross held with Peres and other Israeli officials on the peace process. AL-BA'TH says that some of these views note Peres' moderateness and openness to peace. Other views reflect adamant and intransigent stands without talking about any expected breakthrough or optimism.

AL-BA'TH notes that while everyone is focusing on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Israeli officials failed to note how these tracks will be dealt with or at least to explicitly declare commitment to the basis of the peace process. Those adopting inflexible stands, according to the distribution of political roles, referred to the ground early warning stations, on which Israel insisted and Syria rejected because they are a symbol of the continuation of the occupation and contradict the basic principles of peace. None of the Israeli officials said that they have given up this demand, and none of them admitted that it is a demand that brought the peace efforts to a standoff and placed the entire peace process in a state of deep dormancy.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Is it enough just to talk about optimism to remove the obstacles that are still facing the activation of the peace process? Any statements in this or any other direction will be useless unless they are accompanied by intentions and action. Likewise, talking about moderateness or inflexibility does not concern Syria. What concerns Syria is practical steps by the Peres government toward a just, comprehensive peace. Most important among such steps now or in the future is to give up the demand for ground stations on the Golan.

In a comment headlined "How To Advance the Peace Process," AL-THAWRAH says when the international community stresses the importance of a just, comprehensive peace in the region and the need to exert further efforts to prevent the loss of the peace chance, it does so out of its concern for security and stability in this vital and sensitive region of the world. When they talk about the efforts that have been exerted and will be exerted to boost the peace process and activate the negotiations on the Syrian track, observers have no doubt that peace is in the interest of the people of the region.

AL-THAWRAH says that a just, comprehensive peace must be built on the resolutions of international legitimacy, headed by Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. This is because justice means an end to the aggression and to a long epoch of conflict.

Al-Asad Conveys Condolences to Egypt's Mubarak

JN1911212295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening placed a telephone call to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. His excellency voiced regret over the explosion at the Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad. He also offered condolences for the victims of the incident.

Vice President Khaddam on Current Arab Situation

JN2011152395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 20 Nov 95

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by correspondents Nabil Sabbagh and Thana' al-Imam in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sabbagh] Your Excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: Paris Radio Monte Carlo greets you on the Corrective Movement anniversary. First, we congratulate you on this occasion, and I suggest that the interview center on three axes: Regional, local, and international. 'Abd-al-Halim, over the past 25 years, the Corrective Movement has achieved many of the goals it set. Are there any goals it has not yet achieved?

[Khaddam] Syria under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has made important achievements in all walks of life — economic, political, cultural, social, and scientific. We can say that each of these achievements laid the foundation of another achievement, and that some ambitions have not yet been achieved, particularly the basic ones that fill the minds and hearts of every Arab citizen, and every Syrian citizen in particular. The first of these ambitions is the liberation of the land. So, we will continue to feel that something is missing as long as any inch of land remains under occupation. We will continue to work to achieve that ambition and that goal, which is as much national as [words indistinct]. By liberation of the land, I mean the liberation of the Arab land, whether in Lebanon or the Golan. The second ambition is to build a new Arab order, which will open the way for the Arabs to achieve their pan-Arab unity; to enjoy security, stability, and prosperity; to achieve integration; to confront external challenges; to foil foreign pressures; to enhance the Arab nation's political independence; and to contribute to the building of a new world of security, justice, stability, and equality for everyone.

[Al-Imam] Your Excellency the Vice President: How do you view the current Arab situation in general in light of the new international changes?

[Khaddam] As we can see, the Arab situation is complicated. There have been some breakdowns which pose grave threats to the Arabs' present and future. Thus, as I pointed out a short while ago, our ambition is to work to provide a new Arab atmosphere that will stop these breakdowns, remove their causes, and make the Arab homeland more secure, stable, and free, and increase the chances of attaining Arab aspirations.

[Sabbagh] But if we look at the real situation, we will see that some Arab states, including non-confrontation states, want to expedite the normalization of relations with Israel to guarantee their security and stability. These states view normalization as a passport to reap the promised fruits of the so-called new Middle East order. Damascus' position on this issue can be described as follows: Safety comes with patience and regret comes from rashness. On the other hand, what is the future of the Arab Boycott Office?

[Khaddam] The following, which is gleaned from history, must be clear: There is no external security. In other words, security does not come from abroad; it is not exported. Security is achieved through coherence between governments and their people. When such a coherence is nonexistent, foreigners cannot provide security. In addition to this, when foreigners provide security, this comes at the expense of the basic rights of the country seeking support from foreigners, therefore, the Arab countries surrounding Palestine and other Arab countries are accelerating steps to establish relations with Israel are deceiving themselves. Also, since

Israel cannot provide security for itself, how can we expect it to provide security for others? Those who seek security and stability must seek this inside their own countries, not outside, however, if the objective of security is stop external aggressions against this or that country, then a new Arab order must be set up to prevent a repetition of what took place in the past and to lay the ground for a collective Arab security in which Arab responsibility will be collective.

With regard to those coveting money, they are nursing delusions, because the region will not receive any money. If any such money comes to the region, Israel will be the recipient. If some of them [the regional players] receive any such money, it will be in exchange for promoting Israeli interests to the detriment of Arab interests. Let us speak clearly. Who will be paying? Will it be the United States of America? We are all witness to the sharp financial crisis experienced by the United States of America. The Americans have announced that their contributions will not measure up to the dreams of some. With regard to Europe, it has great responsibilities to shoulder in the European Continent. Europe has clearly announced that it has its own institutions, and that any possible European aid will have to be channeled through these institutions. This is what the Europeans have said. The volume of this aid will also have to be tolerable, the Europeans have noted.

Regarding the Arab states, I do not think that any of us believe that the economic situation of many Arab states will allow them to contribute tens of billions of dollars. Those who believe that the money will pour into the region are mistaken. Additionally, the attempt to sell out the nation's rights in exchange for funds is unreasonable and unacceptable. The peoples' rights cannot be sold out, nor can they become an instrument of bargaining. Attempts to do just that were instrumental in the creating a state of instability in many Arab states. The same holds true for many other states that bargained over their peoples' rights in exchange for specific financial benefits.

[Sabbagh] Based on the above assessment, one senses an implicit reference to the Casablanca and Amman summits. It should be recalled that Syria, which boycotted these two summits, will take part in the upcoming Barcelona summit, which will be attended by Israel.

[Khaddam] With regard to participation in the Barcelona summit, the situation is different. The objective of these two summits was to normalize relations with Israel, to recognize Israel's legitimacy as part of the region, and to open up the region to it. The two summits aimed to reformulate the region on geographic bases that guarantee Israel's interests, and not on pan-Arab bases that ensure Arab interests. The prime objective was to break down the Arab identity, and to predicate inter-Arab ties upon geographic proximity rather than pan-Arab considerations and a single pan-Arab identity.

We opposed the Casablanca and Amman summits, because, as I have said, the object was to guarantee implementation of the Zionist plan to build a new Middle East, however, the objectives of the Barcelona conference are different. The party that called for this conference is the European Union [EU]. The EU's goal is to establish relations with the Mediterranean states, particularly the Arab states. In other words, its objective is to find an appropriate place for Europe in the Arab homeland in terms of cooperation and interaction.

We believe the Arabs have a great interest in establishing cooperation between the Arab world and the EU. The objectives of the Barcelona conference are completely different from those of the Amman and Casablanca conferences, therefore, we decided to take part in this conference, regardless of whether Israel will participate. This conference is like any other conference held under the auspices of the United Nations or within the framework of its organizations and institutions.

[Sabbagh] Has Damascus received any particular indirect signals following the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin and charging Shim'on Peres with forming the new Israeli Government? Has Damascus received signs demonstrating Israel's determination to break the logjam in the talks and end the standstill that has existed since the Madrid conference?

[Khaddam] As you know, the situation in Israel now is a transitional one. It is hard to say whether a transitional government can give positive or negative signals. What the Israelis have announced is that they will continue their previous policy, however, we, like anyone else, hope the new Israeli Government will reconsider its policies toward the peace process. We hope this rethinking will pave the way for the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace based on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Imam] Supposing that Israel has actually sent the most positive signal for Syria; that is, its desire to fully withdraw from the occupied Golan. Would Syria be ready to hold direct talks on a higher level — something Damascus has always rejected and Israel has demanded?

[Khaddam] First of all, Syria is concerned about the terms of reference and framework of the peace process. At the same time, Israel is attempting to push the Arab parties into talks outside the framework of the terms of reference and Madrid conference. Therefore, Syria is holding fast to the framework and terms of reference of the peace process. Regarding the level [of talks], there have been two meetings between the chiefs of staff of the two countries. This level is not a technical one, but is rather a high political level. No agreement was reached on one single serious thing during the two meetings.

So, the issue is not that of a level, but it is related to the Israeli stand. Does Israel really want to establish peace based on international legitimacy — an equitable [mutakafi'] and balanced peace that will bring stability and security to the region? Until now Israel has not proceeded from these two dictums. It wants a peace that will ensure its interests irrespective of the interests of the Arab parties. It wants a peace which ensures its security regardless of the security of the Arab parties.

[Sabbagh] Is there any other reason for the stalemate in the negotiations? Is it just a crisis of confidence between Syria and Israel, or are there any major differences on the peace treaty and its expected implications such as security arrangements, water resources, and the nature of peace between the two countries?

[Khaddam] In fact, the issue is not one of trust or mistrust between enemies. The issue of trust should be set aside. How can there be trust while Israel occupies Arab territories and refuses to recognize Arab rights? What counts is core of the problem. We want to see a clearcut commitment to withdrawal to beyond the 4 June lines. Peace and security components should be balanced, equal [mutasawi], and equitable [mutakafi'], so that no party will have rights at the expense of the rights of the other party.

[Sabbagh] How can we explain Israel's demand for a popular referendum on withdrawal from the Golan? Such a step was not taken following the signing of the Camp David accords.

[Khaddam] We reject this in substance and form. Syrian land is Syrian land, and its identity cannot be defined by this or that number of Israeli voters. If the Israelis want peace, the road to it is well known.

[Al-Imam] Has the U.S. role since the Madrid conference continued to be that of an honest broker, or has it changed following the recent Congress elections under the Jewish lobby's pressures? This fact was recently embodied in the Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

[Khaddam] The U.S. Administration constantly says it will continue the role it has pledged to play. All the U.S. Administration's contacts with us emphasize this role and its continuity. Undoubtedly, however, the Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem gives a negative and serious signal. This signal shows that the Arab-Israeli conflict has become part of the U.S. internal policy.

Naturally, this being the case, we should expect many complications that will negatively reflect on the peace process, on Arab interests, and on U.S. interests, therefore, we hope that the U.S. Administration will take appropriate measures to distinguish between U.S. internal policies and U.S. external policies that are linked to peoples' interests and rights.

[Al-Imam] Syrian officials recently hinted that Damascus could play new cards if pressures continue on it regarding the peace process. Do we have an idea about the nature of these cards?

[Khaddam] First, Syria does not yield to pressure and does not accept any kind of pressure from anyone. We joined the peace process because we are convinced that the region is in dire need of peace.

I do not believe that anyone would say that he can put pressures on Syria or isolate it. This is because peace in the region is impossible without Syria. Some Arab parties have actually signed some agreements, however, these agreements do not constitute peace, and they have further complicated the peace process on the one hand, and weakened the Arab side on the other.

Hence, we basically take into account our own position, our status in the Arab arena, and the great support we receive from most Arabs and most Arab governments. Moreover, the Arabs in the street stand alongside Syria and see that the Syrian position is sound and that it truly and actually reflects Syrian aspirations, rights, and dignity.

[Sabbagh] In light of the previous question, some observers wonder whether it is possible to establish a geographic depth or a strategic Syrian-Iraqi-Iranian alliance to counter the Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian axis.

[Khaddam] If such an axis were to come into existence, it would not be against Syria alone. It would be against the entire Arab nation, therefore, the entire Arab nation is required to form a barrier against that axis. In addition, such an axis would also harm the Islamic states, therefore, these states should also work to block it, however, it is premature to talk about axes, although we see some signs of them. We do not want to foretell matters and derive facts from signs. When such a matter takes place, we will work to unite all Arabs in one rank to counter the Zionist project.

[Sabbagh] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam: Jordan has recently called for removing tension with Damascus. What is Syria's reply to the Jordanian call?

[Khaddam] If an Arab side originally committed to the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact concludes a cooperation treaty with Israel while the latter is still occupying the Arab lands in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon and while the Israeli planes and artillery are attacking villages and cities in southern Lebanon, I say if that fraternal country reaches an agreement with Israel under these circumstances, it will create tension. It is not Syria that has created tension. We have not tried to create tension with any Arab side. But if this or that side departs from normalcy, Arab legitimacy, the Arab summits' resolutions, the Arab League Charter, the Arab accords and charters, it will create a crisis for itself and for the Arabs.

As I said, we seek good relationship with all the Arab countries, however, when a sisterly Arab country has commitments to cooperate with the enemy, is it logical to see cooperation between the Israeli Air Force and the air force of an Arab country at a time when Israeli aircraft are raiding Lebanon? If some Arabs — and I do not want to name names — believe that there is tension between them and Syria, and they want to remove this tension, that road is also known.

[Sabbagh] Let us move now from Syrian-Jordanian relations to Syrian-Iranian relations. What is the effect of the development in Israeli-Syrian talks on Syrian-Iranian relations?

[Khaddam] You know that our relations with Iran are good. These relations are based on mutual understanding of the current situation in the region. They understand our policy, and we understand their policies as a result of the dialogue and discussion and our view of the dangers threatening the Arab and Islamic world. The talks between Syria and Israel have not had negative repercussions on relations between Damascus and Tehran.

[Sabbagh] Periodic ministerial meetings are held between Damascus, Tehran, and Ankara to discuss developments in Iraq. Do these capitals have a common interest in maintaining the current situation in Iraq in light of the bitter suffering of its people as a result of the international sanctions? In your opinion, what is the way out from this tragic situation?

[Khaddam] In fact, the periodic meetings are not to review the developments in Iraq, but to express concern over Iraq's unity. At one point, the issue of Iraq's unity was raised. They also raised the issue of reorganizing the Iraqi state into a federal state, as well as the issue of dividing Iraq into three mini-states. This plan is being raised again ....

[Sabbagh, interrupting] By an Arab side.

[Khaddam] In fact, by Arab and foreign sides. There is no doubt that the major side behind this plan is Israel.

To date, the highest ambition of each and every Arab is to achieve Arab unity. But given the ongoing attempts at disintegration, the ambition is now to safeguard the national unity of the Arab states. It is in Israel's interest to see Iraq fragmented. This is because by fragmenting Iraq, Israel aims to control Iraq's oil sources. Israel aims to border Iraq, Iran, and Pakistan. It aims to beleaguer the Gulf. An Israeli extension into Iraq would in practical terms raise the issue of Greater Israel. That is why there is an emphasis on fragmenting and dividing Iraq. That is why the Arab homeland and the neighboring Islamic states, namely Iran and Turkey, are concerned about the prospects of such division and fragmentation. That is why we have strongly supported Iraq's territorial integrity. We believe that the plans in this regard could undermine and jeopardize pan-Arab security.

[Sabbagh] Mr. Syrian Vice President: The Iraqi people are suffering. Recently, several Arab officials have appealed for an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people. Where does Damascus stand on these appeals and calls?

[Khaddam] As a matter of fact, the Iraqi people's suffering is a source of concern to all sides. The Iraqi people are not responsible for any decision made in Baghdad by the Iraqi Government. Without question, our concern must call on all Arabs to look for ways to reconcile the Iraqi citizen's suffering with the existing political differences between some Arab states and the Iraqi Government.

[Al-Imam] Mr. Vice President: Is it true that Iraq has repeatedly requested participation in these tripartite meetings?

[Khaddam] To the best of my knowledge, Iraq initially protested these meetings, even though they were aimed at safeguarding Iraqi interests. But Iraq has increasingly been viewing these meetings favorably. This is because the Iraqi Government, I believe, realized the scope of the dangers entailed in the anti-Iraq schemes. Moreover, Iraq realized that these states, and all the other Arab states that have not taken part in these meetings, for that matter, are interested in safeguarding Iraq's unity and concerned over the attempts to fragment or partition Iraq.

[Sabbagh] Some major opponents of the Iraqi regime are based in Damascus. But efforts to unify the ranks of this opposition have failed, therefore, the United States stepped in to pool the efforts of this opposition in order to install a new regime in Iraq. Where do you stand on this issue?

[Khaddam] We have not actively or directly interfered to unify the parties of the Iraqi opposition. However, we hope these parties will cooperate in the interest of Iraq. Of course, our opinion on this issue is different from that of others. We are inspired by the principle that each Arab country is responsible for its own affairs. Nobody has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. Some Western countries tried to establish some sort of alliance joining some Iraqi opposition parties, however, there were no results in the final analysis.

[Al-Imam] It is said that tension currently plagues Syrian-Turkish relations against the backdrop of Syria's support for the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK], as Ankara claims, and failure to sign a final agreement on a fair distribution of the Euphrates as demanded by Damascus. Do you see a possibility for overcoming this tension, and does Syria believe that this issue is part of the pressure being applied against it in the peace process?

[Khaddam] Syria has no interest in creating a condition of instability in Turkey. Turkey is a neighboring country. We have many interests in common. Our borders with Turkey exceed 800 kilometers. Syria has no interest in seeing instability in Turkey. Equally, Turkey should have an interest in the stability of its neighboring countries. As we know, there is a problem in Turkey. Syria did not and will not extend any assistance that would violate Turkey's security and stability. What is said about the Turkish PKK party is not true. Why should Syria resort to supporting such a party? What will Syria realize through this? What interest does Syria have in this regard? Syria has no interest in this. Syria did not and will not do this. Of course, some parties in Turkey, whether the media or politicians, try to level accusations against Syria within the context of debate over domestic issues, especially since it is election season there.

Several security meetings were held between the two countries. We unequivocally asserted that Syria cannot help any force to undermine Turkey's security.

We do not link the water issue to the security issue. Our interest is to reach an agreement on water-sharing between Syria, Turkey, and Iraq. We also have an interest in a stable Turkish Government, because a stable government is more capable of holding negotiations and reaching an agreement, whereas an unstable government cannot do so. Consequently, Syria is interested in a stable situation in Turkey. It is not interested in the opposite.

[Sabbagh] It is noted that whenever differences erupt between some officials in Lebanon, they visit Damascus individually or in groups. Eyes are then trained on Damascus to monitor the signals that it may show. These signs are interpreted in such a way as to say that Syria interferes in everything in Lebanon. What is your reply to all this?

[Khaddam] Those who spread rumors that Syria interferes in everything in Lebanon are doing an injustice to both Syria and Lebanon. We have not actually tried, and we will not try, to interfere in any internal Lebanese affair.

We actually coordinate two basic things: First, supporting the march of security and reconciliation in Lebanon. In other words, we extend the security assistance requested by the Lebanese Government.

Second, we coordinate and cooperate on confronting the [Israeli] occupation on the one hand and on the negotiating process on the other. Apart from these two things, they do not check with us, nor do we try to check with any of them.

Naturally, there are government institutions in Lebanon. An issue is sometimes raised and various viewpoints are expressed on it. The Lebanese media depict these viewpoints as contradictions, differences, and disputes, which is not actually the case.

Controversial issues are sometimes raised. Naturally, Lebanese officials try to benefit from the Syrian experience, so this or that Lebanese brother comes for consultations. Naturally, we advise them all to cooperate with each other and find solutions to problems through dialogue and discussions, and this actually takes place.

[Sabbagh] Finally, Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, in your capacity as an official and the comrade of President Hafiz al-Asad on the road of struggle, al-Asad was described, among other things, as the Bismarck of the Arab world. In your opinion, what is the most appropriate description of al- Asad?

[Khaddam] I knew President Hafiz al-Asad a long time ago when we were still youths. We knew each other through the [Ba'th] party. We then continued our work in the party. Throughout this long period, President Hafiz al-Asad proved to be a zealous patriotic man who loves his country. And his country is not only Syria — it is the country of all the Arabs. He loves his country, and is concerned about his nation and its future. You can describe him as the torch in a dark time. In fact, he possesses what many historic leaders possessed. The most important characteristic of President al-Asad is the ability to enlighten people, foresee events, and analyze these events, and consequently to achieve balance in internal relations among all sectors of society, as well in foreign relations. As we know, Syria has faced difficult circumstances, and decisionmaking was a difficult task. Despite this, our president succeeded in maintaining balance between the ideological and phased, between the principled and practical. I believe these are the characteristics of the successful leader.

[Sabbagh] Your Excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, thank you for this interview.

[Khaddam] Thank you, and through you I greet all listeners of Radio Monte Carlo, wishing you success.

[Sabbagh] Are you one of them?

[Khaddam] Yes.

[Sabbagh] Thank you.

Afghanistan

Pakistan's Rejection of Mestiri Plan 'Condemned'

LD2111135595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a letter to the UN secretary general, the Afghan Foreign Ministry condemned Pakistan's rejection of the new plan by Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Afghanistan, on the restoration of peace and the transfer of power in Afghanistan, calling it a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Kabul. According to a report by IRNA, Najibollah Lafra'i, acting minister of foreign affairs [as heard], said: Pakistan has no right to reject a proposal about the fate of the Afghan Muslim people. He called Pakistan's opposition to Mahmoud Mestiri's new plan to resolve the Afghan problem Islamabad's diplomatic failure in Afghanistan.

The UN secretary general's special envoy has presented a list of 28 names which the Afghan Government has accepted.

Harakat-e Eslami Said To Back Mestiri Peace Plan

LD2111162995 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 21, IRNA — Harakat-e Eslami Afghanistan (the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan) has given conditional support for the plan put forward by the U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan affairs, Mahmoud Mestiri, said a party spokesman Tuesday [21 November]. The spokesman, Seyyed Mohammad Taher Modaresi, speaking in Mashhad, northeastern Iran, said that the leader of his party will participate in Mestiri's power transfer plan, if the number of representatives of the Shiite community in the 28-man council is increased to a level proportional with their population in the country.

In Mestiri's plan the Shiite community has four representatives, said the spokesman adding that in reality one-fourth of the council members should be Shiites.

In an earlier meeting leader of Harakat-e Eslami Ayatollah Mohseni and Mestiri agreed that one-fourth of the representatives should be from the Shiite community. However, the number is now reduced to one-seventh, said Modaresi. Modaresi added that his party welcomes any plan which will end the fightings in the country.

The Mestiri's power transfer plan, unveiled last thursday, proposes a 28-member council representing different warring sides.

Under the plan Ayatollah Mohseni from Harakat-e Eslami, Ayatollah Fazel from Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami (the Islamic Unity Party) (Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbari), Sadeq Parvani from Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami (Khalili) and Ayatollah Mahdavi represent the Shiite community as neutral members.

Meanwhile, President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his allies have eight, Taleban militia five and Supreme Council of Coordination has eight representatives. The council also have seven neutral members.

The plan has been rejected by all of the opposition groups fighting against president Rabbani's government, which have described it as defected. [as received]

Islamabad in a similar move has also rejected the plan.

Taleban Reportedly Captures Khvord Kabul Region

LD2111152795 Tehran IRNA in English 0733 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov. 21, IRNA — The Khvord Kabul [as received] region located about 30 km southeast of Kabul was taken over by the Taliban militia on Monday [20 November] evening. An informed source in the Afghan capital said on monday night the Taliban troops, following the arrival of reinforcements, finally captured the region and the hills overlooking it, pushing government forces back to the village of Chekri. The informant added that the control of the Khvord Kabul region has been passed from one side to another several times during the past three days. The state militia has been reported to be preparing a counter-offensive to regain the area.

At present, government forces are engaged in fierce battles in the vicinity of Chekri where state troops have already halted an attack launched by the Talibans. No report on casualities of each group has been made available.

The Khvord Kabul region, the scene of intense confrontations since Thursday, was sought by the Talibans as capturing the region and bringing the Kabul-Jalalabad highway under its sway would make the siege of Kabul more effective.

Taleban Militia Makes 'Major Advance' Near Kabul

BK2111141395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Butkhak, Afghanistan, Nov 21 (AFP) — The Taleban militia made a major advance against Afghan Government troops on the sixth day of fierce fighting between the two sides southeast of Kabul on Tuesday [21 November].

The Islamic fighters seized about 10 kilometers (six miles) from government troops in a fresh offensive on the eastern flank of the besieged Afghan capital, overrunning three key strategic villages, military commanders and frontline soldiers said here.

The move — in which the Taleban took the villages of Chakari, Khvord Kabul and Band-i-Ghazi — pushed the front line to a spot about 25 kilometers (15 miles) southeast of Kabul, said General Bismillah, one of the key government commanders.

The latest Taleban advance in this tug-of-war battle brings the rebels — who want to seize Kabul — to within some 13 kilometers (eight miles) of the village of Pul-i-Charkhi, a crucial point on the main artery linking Kabul, the eastern city of Jalabad and Pakistan.

Foreign observers in Kabul said the fall of Pul-i-Charkhi would deal a possibly fatal blow to the administration of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, desperately defending Kabul from the advancing Taleban, who already have it hemmed in on three major fronts.

But Bismillah insisted that that Pul-i-Chakhi was not coming under Taleban artillery or rocket attack, and that the rebels would soon be repulsed again by government troops.

"This is a temporary setback for us after several long days of fighting. We will not let them get any closer and we will push them back soon," he said.

He pointed out that Kabul's eastern defence lines were still intact, adding that the city was not vulnerable to an enemy onslaught as the nearest Taleban post in this area is five times further from Kabul than some Taleban front lines to the south of the city.

Both sides in the conflict were exchanging heavy artillery, missile and rocket fire in the area around this government-held village, 15 kilometers (nine miles) east of Kabul late Tuesday.

Defence Ministry sources said 10 Taleban had been killed in the day's intense fighting, for the loss of four government soldiers.

They earlier admitted their troops had been forced to withdraw in the face of the Taleban advance.

"We made a tactical retreat from Chakari and Khvord Kabul, but are still maintaining other important posts in the area," an official said.

The Taleban originally seized Chakari, Band-i-Ghazni and Khvord Kabul, a major attack on the area late Thursday, but the rebels were pushed out of most of the captured zone in a government counter- offensive on Saturday. Intense battles have continued for control of hills and military posts overlooking the villages ever since, culminating in Tuesday's Taleban advance.

But despite the battlefield reversal, the government is confident its troops have not lost the fight for the eastern flank of the besieged city.

"The Taleban victory has not brought them significantly closer to Kabul and does not undermine in any major way our imminent plans to drive them back," a Defence Ministry source said.

The religious students' aim in launching their attack Thursday was to capture the eastern defences of Kabul in a bid to broaden their month-old siege on the city, defence and military officials have said.

The Taleban, who sprang up from the Koranic schools of Pakistan and southern Afghanistan last year, have vowed to topple Rabbani's three-year-old government and to install Islamic law across the country.

Government Planes Said To Attack Dostam Positions

LD2111142195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Heavy fighting was continuing between the forces associated with General Dostam, leader of the Northern National Movement, and the Afghan Goverment forces in Safidkotal area, Samangan Province, yesterday. According to a report by IRNA from Islamabad, the Afghan government warplanes bombed the Dostam forces' positions in the area inflicting much loss of life and damage on them.

Afghan government sources also reported that Monday [20 November] night an explosion occurred in a Taleban arms and ammunition dump in Ghazni Province. No report has been received about the loss of life and damage caused by the explosion.

India

Delhi Condemns Attack on Egyptian Embassy Attack

BK2111145995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad on Sunday [19 November].

In a message to President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, reiterated New Delhi's resolve to cooperate with Egypt and other like-minded countries in actively opposing such forces.

U.S. Said To Permit 'Terrorism' From Islamabad

BK2211085995 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 21 Nov 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Terror In, and From, Islamabad"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Has the sound of the bomb blast which destroyed the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad on Sunday [19 November] reached Washington as yet or not? One of the principal reasons why Pakistan continues assembly-line production at its numerous terror-factories is because the United States, unwittingly if not wittingly, permits it to do so. The concern that the United States shows for state-sponsored terrorism indulged in by other countries is completely absent in its dealings with Islamabad. There was only one brief period, during the Bush administration, when Washington threatened action, but that attempt was quickly snuffed out by the strong Pakistan lobby that always manages to bail out its client. Of course there is a history to the US position: during the whole of the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, funding, arming and training Islamic militants was part of official US policy. Washington lost interest in both Kabul and its trained Islamic militants after its specific purpose of defeating the Soviets was achieved.

Unfortunately for the rest of the region, and indeed the world, Frankenstein was not ready to disappear just because it was no longer needed. Islamabad immediately converted the mujahideen trained on its territory by its intelligence and army officers into the fighting arm of its Kashmir policy. You can match the dates: the end of the Russian occupation of Afghanistan coincides precisely with the rise of terrorism in the Kashmir valley. The United States continued its benign eye policy towards Islamabad, probably judging that a little pressure on India through Kashmir would be one way of keeping some control on a country which had the potential of being a major power.

But Frankensteins do not bite only those targets that are pointed out to them; they often have an agenda of their own. In this specific case, the militants are not only interested in a jihad against an infidel India, but also in the war against "apostate" governments in Muslim nations like Egypt and Algeria to name the two as well as, of course, the United States itself. The death and havoc at the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad is the harvest of what Pakistan has sown, with implicit encouragement from Washington. Will Egypt now appreciate that mere diplomatese is not sufficient to deter Pakistan from its destructive course? Will Washington understand the full dimensions of what Pakistan is doing and its destabilising impact on the region? If the answers to both questions remain in the negative, then those who planted the car bomb in Islamabad will have succeeded.

South African Trade Minister on Official Visit

Meets With Mukherjee

BK2011015095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South African trade minister, Mr. Trevor Manuel, today called on the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, in New Delhi. Both the sides discussed the proposal for establishing cooperation among the Indian Ocean rim countries. They felt that India and South Africa, which have substantial commonalities in their economies, should come together to promote the proposal.

Visits Gandhi Memorial, Trade Fair

MB1911193095 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1759 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DEHLI Nov 19 SAPA — Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel, leading a 40-strong South African business delegation to India, at the weekend laid a wreath at the memorial of veteran resistance leader Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi is remembered for having been in the forefront of the liberation of Indians and played a role in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.

Manuel arrived in India on Saturday [18 November] night for a week-long investment and trade promotion campaign.

After the laying of a wreath at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial, Manuel visited the annual India International Trade Fair in New Delhi.

According to Trade and Industry Ministry spokesman Ismail Lagardien, about 2.5 million people have so far visited the two-week long trade fair and the number was expected to increase this year.

"Nineteen countries including South Africa are represented at this year's fair," said Lagardien.

He said Manuel would on Monday open a series of seminars in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. More high-level meetings with Indian officials have also been scheduled.

Addresses Business Leaders

MB1911192895 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1850 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI Nov 19 SAPA — Developing and less developed countries lacked the instruments and mechanisms that made industrialised giants succeed, Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel said on Sunday [19 November].

Addressing a dinner hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industries, Manuel said developing and less-developed countries had no access to instruments and mechanisms to nurture and protect their economies.

"In terms of GATT, South Africa was classified as a developed country, yet we share many of the problems experienced by the developing world and generally of the South," Manuel said.

There was however "a window of opportunity" for South Africa.

He said of India and South Africa: "Like many other countries of the South we were fortunate in that we have governments and people aligned on a whole range of issues and by various institutions like the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement."

"Commonalities between us must begin to shape the agenda for greater South co-operation in all spheres of public and private life," he said.

The idea of an Indian Ocean Rim [IOR] was one such effort "but it is still early days". The likely domestic impact of the IOR would have to be assessed as would its possible impact on regional relationships.

Agrees on Economic Partnership

BK2111021295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and South Africa have decided to work toward the establishment of an Indo-South African economic partnership. The partnership will include the fullest possible participation of the private sector in both countries. This was decided at a meeting between the South African minister of trade and industry, Mr. Trevor Manuel, and the union industry minister, Shri K. Karunakaran, in New Delhi today. The ministers also discussed steps to strengthen industrial and trade ties between the two countries.

Bomb Explodes in New Delhi's Connaught Place

Six Wounded

BK2111154295 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1520 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A bomb exploded in the busy Connaught Place area in the capital New Delhi this evening injuring at least six persons. One of the injured is reported to be in critical condition. All India Radio correspondent, who visited the area immediately after the explosion, reports that many shops and more than 12 vehicles have been damaged. According to preliminary reports the bomb was kept in a container outside a restaurant. All the injured have been admitted in the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The lieutenant governor of Delhi and the police commissioner rushed to the spot immediately after receiving the report of explosion. The entire Connaught Place has been cordoned off. The sound of the explosion was heard in a radius of 1 km.

'Militant Group' Claims Bombing

BK2111163995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1626 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP) — A Kashmiri militant group, the Jammu Kashmir Islamic Front, late Tuesday [21 November] claimed responsibility for a blast in the Indian capital's main commercial district, Connaught Place, which left at least six people injured, police said.

The blast, which occurred around 7.30 p.m. (1400 GMT), seriously damaged about 20 surrounding stores and restaurants. Police said one of the injured was in a critical condition.

A caller claiming to be a spokesman from the Front, which was previously known as the Ikhwanul Muslameen, told newspaper offices and news agencies in Srinagar that "we did this to avenge the killings of Kashmiri militants by Indian troops."

"Our intention was not to kill the common man," he told them in Hindi.

The Press Trust of India said about 30 people were injured in the explosion — taking into account those injured who were not admitted to hospital.

Bystanders said only six were injured, one critically.

One witness said the bomb could have been placed inside a container outside the Delhi Darbar restaurant, which was badly damaged in the blast.

"I saw a spark from a metal box placed nearby an electric pole and in seconds the whole place was shattered," a witness said. The thunderous blast broke window panes as far as a kilometer (half mile) away.

"Ten passenger cars, which were parked nearby, were destroyed," another witness said.

A car park attendant said he had seen a "metal box container lying near the electric pole since evening." He said he had informed police about the "suspicious looking object" around 7 p.m. (1330 GMT).

In September two low-intensity blasts in New Delhi left 22 people injured.

No one claimed responsibility for those blasts.

Joint Naval Exercises With UAE Begin in Gulf

BK2211011195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first ever Indo-UAE [United Arab Emirates] joint naval exercises have begun in the Gulf waters. The flag officer commanding the Indian flotilla, Rear Admiral John de Silva, told the AIR [All India Radio] Gulf correspondent in Abu Dhabi today that the 12-hour exercises will include maneuvers, replenishment at sea, and cross flying operation. The Indian fleet consists of three ships led by the 5000-ton INS [Indian Naval Ship] Ranvijay, INS Kuthar, and INS Sindhuvijay. The flotilla excluding the submarine, INS Sindhuvijay, will leave for Kuwait this evening on the second leg of its Gulf tour. The ships will return to the UAE on the 27th of this month and remain in Dubayy till the 30th.

Article Views Light Combat Aircraft's Development

BK2111044195 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Nov 95 p 13

[Article by C. Uday Bhaskar of the Institute for Defense and Strategic Analysis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) which rolled out a Bangalore on Friday [17 November] marks a modest though symbolic all significant punctuation in the arduous path of self-reliance in critical areas of defence preparedness. The first roll-out of an aircraft is akin to the formal launching of a ship and prepare it for a series of ground tests that in this case will ultimately prepare the LCA for its matter test flight in mid 1996.

This ceremony is significant in that it marks the first visible achievement of a project with a chequered past that has attracted considerable negative comment. When finally proven the LCA will be the future work-horse of the Indian Air Force [IAF]. While that stage is still a long way ahead, the technological characteristics of the LCA compare favourably with prevailing global benchmarks.

A single engine fighter with tailless, compound delta platform, the LCA is smaller, lighter and less expensive than comparable fighters. It uses high strength composite material that is synthetic non-metallic material and incorporates the latest technological gadgetry on board. This includes relaxed static stability, fly-by-wire control systems, integrated digitalis Ed avionics including the 1553 bus that will allow future upgrades and multi mode radar. Design features include short-take off and landing ability, high manoeuverability, low maintenance requirements and a wide ranging weapon fit including air-to-air missile capability. The LCA also caters to mid flight refuelling and a naval version is also on the drawing board.

No nation can make a totally indigenous modern fighter—less so a developing nation—and the LCA has a US engine and fly-by-wire system, while the avionic electronics are from France. Indigenisation of sub-systems have to be seen in terms of their cost-effectiveness and it is envisaged that an Indian Kaveri engine will replace the US engine. When finally proven—and the enormity of reaching this perch should not be underestimated—the LCA will compare favourably with its peers, particularly in cost per unit.

The French Rafale at US $48 million, the Euro-British EFA at $37 million and the American F-22 at $59 million offer an instructive contrast with the LCA which is estimated to cost $21 million. The LCA project started in 1983 with a sanction of Rs [rupees] 560 crores. There have been a series of cost and time over-runs and finally this project peaked at Rs 2188 crores with induction into the IAF envisaged in 2003. This track record came in for critical scrutiny by Parliament and a detailed report has been made. At one time it appeared that the LCA was the most visible white elephant of the DRDO [Defense Research Development Organization].

However, these setbacks and the technological and fiscal characteristics have to be seen against a politico-technological backdrop to appreciate the relevance of Friday's roll-out. In sharp contrast to the level of self reliance achieved in naval warships— whereby India now designs and builds its won missile frigates—it has not been able to sustain the tempo in military aircraft after the first flush of the HF-24 fighter that performed so admirably in the 1965 war with Pakistan and some trainers. The reasons for this lack of any indigenous Indian capability on the aircraft front are complex but suffice it to note that despite all the warts—and there are many—the LCA which is all set to take off will partially restore the requisite degree of technological self-confidence in an exceedingly critical area.

Fighter aircraft have become prohibitively expensive and with the most modern fighters costing anything from $70-100 million a degree of affordable self-reliance is imperative if India is to attain the kind of quiet confidence and adequacy it deems prudent in its overall military-technological profile. Like the space, missile and submarine building programme, the LCA is a high tech, high visibility national capability of a certain category and takes India into a select grouping in the global hierarchy.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Urges UAE To Continue Talks

LD2211115595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry has stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to continue the talks with the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Referring to the talks in Doha [between Foreign Ministry delegations from Iran and the UAE], he described them as positive and said that continuing the dialogue between the two countries' officials with the aim of eliminating misunderstandings is the best way to fulfil the shared interests of the Muslim nations of the region. He added: Mr. Velayati's invitation to Shaykh Hamdan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, [to visit Iran] remains in force.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry added: The April 1992 letter from [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been the basis for the talks and, in accordance with the importance it attaches to good neighborly relations with regional countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran sent its specialist delegation to Doha. Mr. Mohammadi added: The removal of any kind of misunderstanding requires mutual goodwill and joint political determination and we expect the other side to demonstrate its firm resolve to hold bilateral talks by continuing talks in Tehran.

With regard to Bosnia, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said: Precise information is not yet available about the details of the agreement. However, our nation has demonstrated, in word and in deed, its solidarity with and support for the Bosnian nation and it will continue to support solutions based on a just and lasting peace.

Bosnian Envoy on Ties, 'Pressures' in Dayton

LD2211122295 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA — Serbs attending the Dayton peace talks tried to attain what they had lost through bullying and aggression, Bosnian ambassador to Iran Omar Bahman said in an interview here on Tuesday [21 November] with the Persian-language daily 'IRAN'.

The paper wrote in its Wednesday issue that Bahman had confirmed that pressures have been applied on the Bosnian delegation during the said talks, which had been taking place during the past 20 days in Ohio, the United States.

He said the Bosnians were clearly aware of what "peace" and "war" are but it should not be overlooked that there are limits to submission.

Concerning the resignation of Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohamed Sacirbegovic, he explained that Sacirbegovic tendered his resignation to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic as the Bosnian Croats had asked for presidential or premiership posts or the Foreign Ministry chair in the government federation.

Commenting on the circulation of news from Western sources alleging the pressures exerted by the U.S. on Bosnia for the latter to limit or sever its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bahman said that he had not heard of any report about cutting or curtailing relations with Iran and rejected any claims about the issue.

He added that Tehran-Sarajevo ties were "deep and extensive" and expressed hope that Iran-Bosnia relations would further expand.

Asked whether a cease-fire between Croats and Serbs would have any effect on Bosnia's military and political power, Bahman said that an agreement between Serbs and Croats would have a psychological impact in making the situation tranquil in the Balkans.

Naturally, commented the Bosnian ambassador, everything depended on the will of Serb and Croat leaders.

Also asked about the exact expectation of the Bosnian side from the talks, he said the desires and rights of the Bosnians are the same as those of any living creature and those that have been affirmed by international laws.

He underscored the Bosnians request for the right to exist, to have land, own property and defend themselves.

In contrast, Bahman said that Serbs understood only the language of force and that might is right.

The only safe guarantee for Bosnia, he concluded, was the guarantee of Bosnian allies and friends as well as the international community that the agreements to be reached in the future would be properly enforced.

Radio Criticizes Dayton Peace Plan for Bosnia

NC2211073195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 22 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The negotiating sides in the Bosnian peace talks in Ohio have finally agreed on the draft of a peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Although Izetbegovic has accepted the proposal by the Western mediators—after assessing the relative benefits of this plan verses a destructive war and the tragic situation of the Muslims—and has thus taken an effective step toward easing regional tensions, the Serbs' obstinate and illegitimate stand proves that the talks are ultimately paving the way for the Serbs and possibly the Croats to gain even more territories and thus become even stronger.

Even though the Muslims are not lucky enough to enjoy the support of any of the powers in the new world order, the Western allies and especially the United States cannot ignore historic experiences. They cannot ignore the fact that territorial divisions in Europe or in any other place in the world are very unjust and contrary to historic realities. They are the prologue to more acute crises in the near or distant future.

Under the current conditions the main stands of the international contact group come to light even more. They have no qualms about showing their concordance with the Serbs by granting more concessions and lifting the economic and political sanctions on Serbia. This further isolates the Muslims. The measures that have been taken by Western leaders to end the Bosnian crisis speak of the recognition of unequal equations and are a type of reward to the Serbs in that republic.

Minister Said To Participate in Tajik Peace Talks

LD1911111895 Tehran IRNA in English
0650 GMT 19 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 19 (IRNA) — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, is to leave here on Thursday [23 November] for Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to hold talks with high-ranking officials on the Tajik national peace initiative, a morning daily wrote Sunday.

Speaking to the English-language Tehran times, Va'ezi said Iran is to remove obstacles in the way of the Tajikistan peace process and pave the way for the fifth session of talks between the Tajik Government and opposition groups.

Commenting on the obstacles to peace talks, he noted that the setting for the meeting is among the differences between the opposing sides. [sentence as received]

The second barrier is how to implement previous agreements as in the fourth round of talks on July 19 of this year in Tehran, he stated.

How to set the agenda of the fifth round of discussions is another issue that has to be resolved, he added.

Thus far, four rounds of talks have been held between the government of Tajikistan and the groups opposing it. The meetings had been held in Tehran, Moscow and Islamabad. The fourth round took place in Tehran earlier this year.

Va'ezi further noted that Iran will do its best to extend peace and stability in the region in the course of the fifth round of the peace talks.

Before leaving Tehran for Dushanbe, Va'ezi is to pay a two-day visit to Moscow to discuss Irano-Russian relations, the legal regime of the Caspian Sea and the Karabakh issue.

The Iranian official will also stop in Baku, Azerbaijan, on his way home, reported the daily.

Envoy: Tehran, Islamabad Committed to Strong Ties

LD2011112495 Tehran IRNA in English
1025 GMT 20 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Islamabad Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh said Iranian and Pakistani officials are committed to maintaining deep Tehran-Islamabad brotherly relations notwithstanding varying stands on regional events such as the crisis in Afghanistan.

Speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES daily published here Monday [20 November], he noted the bilateral relations of the two countries are important that they could not be affected even by developments outside the region, with the official making obvious reference to the current U.N. mediation plan for troubled Afghanistan.

Akhondzadeh expressed confidence that the various rival factions in Afghanistan would, sooner or later, come to a realization that the Afghan people want peace and stability, as well as the development and reconstruction of their country.

He moreover stressed on the importance of regular exchange of visits among officials to achieve better understanding between the two countries and demonstrate unwavering Iran-Pakistan relations.

Referring to the upcoming trip of the Pakistani parliament speaker and the judiciary's chief justice to Tehran, the diplomat said viewpoints will be shared concerning the legislative and judiciary systems of Iran and Pakistan.

Touching on mutual defense cooperation, he said the second Iran- Pakistan joint military maneuvers would take place in Iranian coastal waters this year. The first, following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, was conducted last year in Pakistan's coastal waters.

Akhondzadeh predicted that healthy bilateral defense cooperation would be a factor in ensuring peace and stability in the Persian Gulf and even in the whole of Asia.

The holding of joint activities of international significance, such as the Muslim women's Olympic Games, the anti-narcotics campaign, and cooperation in the media, commerce, industries and the economy within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), including the ECO airlines and shipping line, are impetus for the enhancement of bilateral ties between the two neighboring countries, expounded the daily.

Akhondzadeh referred to the common views of Tehran and Islamabad on major international issues including Bosnia-Herzegovina and need for revising the structure of the United Nations and the Security Council.

He added that during the recent Interparliamentary Union (IPU) meet in Bucharest, both the Iranian and Pakistani delegates called for the establishment of an interparliamentary union of Islamic countries.

He said during the recent visit to Iran of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in which she also visited the holy city of Mashhad in the northeast of the country, Iranian officials agreed to provide certain facilities for Pakistani pilgrims who want to pay tribute to Imam Reza (AS), the eight imam of the infallible household of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

First Vice President Habibi Hails Tunisian Ties

LD2111174095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with the recently appointed Tunisian ambassador today, referring to the common cultural and Islamic ties between the two countries, First Vice President Habibi stressed the necessity to establish extensive relations in all fields.

Referring to the struggles by the Tunisian people to seek independence Habibi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches special importance to the establishment and expansion of ties with Arab and Islamic countries and Tunisia enjoys such a position.

He said that the common grounds for cooperation between the two countries in the Non-Aligned Movement were important, stressing the necessity for coordination and unity among non-aligned countries.

Mohamed Saad, the Tunisian ambassador, referred to Iran's outstanding and considerable economic and industrial expansion in recent years. He said his country's officials were adamant in using all their facilities for the further expansion of ties in all fields and to elevate them to their true level.

He said: Considering its position in the region Iran could, with Tunisia's cooperation, play a special role in establishing widespread ties between north African and southern European countries and Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Indian subcontinent and the Far East.

Foreign Ministry Official on Israel, Arab Affairs

LD2211113295 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry official refuted the Zionist regime's commitment to peace and the establishment of peace between Syria, Lebanon, and Israel before the U.S. presidential elections. The advisor to the foreign minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, in an interview with the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS', said Tuesday [21 November] that the assassination of Zionist Premier Yitzhaq Rabin was rooted in the tensions existing among Zionists in occupied Palestine. He noted that Rabin's death revealed Tel Aviv's false publicity on the inherent solidarity of the Zionist ranks, exhibiting how fragile it really was.

In another part of his interview, Khonsari, who is also the ministry's director-general for the Arab Middle East and North Africa, stated that Israel pretends that no serious damage has been done to the peace process with the Arabs, thus, it has actually embarked on a new publicity campaign. The Zionists pretend to seriously pursue peace, he added, but actually Peres is confronted with a basic problem with regard to this peace process.

On Iran's stance vis-a-vis peace in the Middle East, the official reiterated, "we have declared all along that we do not oppose true peace but we do not conceive that the present trend would insure the establishment of true peace, as no viable solution has been set forth for millions of displaced Palestinians."

These displaced people must return to their homeland and democratically decide the fate of their own country, and this could only take place when there is peaceful co-existence among Muslims, Christians and Jews.

Concerning ties between Iran and Egypt, he said, "we respect the Egyptian people, but unfortunately the Camp David issue is still a major barrier to relations with the Egyptian government." He quoted President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who pointed out in an interview that the more Egypt distances itself from Camp David, the closer would be Tehran-Cairo relations. He believed that in this case, Iran and Egypt will be able to have a significant role in resolving regional and international issues.

Before the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Cairo owed a considerable sum to Tehran, part of which was repaid through the purchase of several airplanes and sugar cane plants, he said. Both countries are striving to step up economic and commercial cooperation and Iran is ready for cultural collaboration with Egypt, he maintained.

On the Algerian elections, Khonsari said the voting in Algeria could not by itself resolve the numerous problems which exist in that country. He stressed that a government which respects its citizens' collective opinion would be able to solve its domestic problems. He underlined that Iran has never meddled in the internal affairs of Algeria and it has no intention of doing so in the future.

Talking of Fathi al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom, the official said the plot was hatched by the Zionist regime, adding that it would be the loser in the end.

Commentary Discusses Reactions to Rabin Death

NC2211095595 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Whetstone of Experience"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday the newspaper's "Special Report" column published parts of statements issued by counterrevolutionary groups on the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin. In their statements the counterrevolutionary groups expressed their regrets over the death of the terrorist prime minister of Israel and expressed their sympathy to the statesmen of the regime occupying Jerusalem. Some of them even described Rabin as their "father." [passage omitted]

The organizations that today describe Yitzhaq Rabin, the bloodthirsty prime minister of Israel, as a "father," a man who despicably extended a begging hand for a handful of dollars for the detested Israeli regime, are the same organizations that bombastically shouted slogans of death to America and the Zionists and pretended to be revolutionaries not so long ago. Comparing their servile and tragic situation today with the slogans they paid lipservice to in the past is didactic and noteworthy. It shows what fate awaits those who resort to slogans on principles and values to hide their true face and identity. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Revolution, the most outstanding characteristic of which is the fight against blasphemy and oppression and, very naturally, challenging the oppressors and hegemonists, tested the false advocates of justice and humanity much sooner than expected. Everyone saw that only the true God-seekers could remain on the scene. If the revolution had not occurred and if the regime of diktat had remained, the Americans may have continued to wear the false mask of human rights advocates and the United Nations may have made peaceloving allegations! Yasir 'Arafat may still have been living behind the mask of defending the rights of the Palestinian nation and enjoying the title of a revolutionary combatant...[ellipsis as published] [passage omitted]

Tehran Expresses Regret Over Chile's Rushdie Invitation

LD2111160695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Santiago has issued a statement expressing regret over the invitation of the atheist writer of the book Satanic Verses to Chile. According to our correspondent the statement stressed that Islam is a religion of patience and free exchange of ideas, but, Rushdie's act in desecration of religious sanctities of over one billion Muslims is quite different.

Chile's press and media published the news on cancellation of Salamn Rushdie's programs in the country as well as the point of the view of Muslims that Rushdie's book is insulting, expressing regret that his existence has soiled the atmosphere of democracy.

Bank Embezzler Said Hanged; Rafiqdust Jailed

LD2211065395 Tehran IRNA in English 0505 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA — The first degree convict of the rls. 1,230 billion embezzlement of Bank Saderat, Fazel Khodadad, was hanged at the Evin Prison at 5:30 hours local time (2:00 gmt) Wednesday [22 November]. Khodadad had been sentenced to death for plundering several billion rials from bank deposits. He was also an accomplice of illegal gangs and illegitimate associations. His penalty, moreover, included a restitution of his debt to the bank and flogging with 149 lashes.

The Supreme Court of Iran confirmed the verdicts issued at branch 40 of the general court in Tehran against those convicted for the Bank Saderat embezzlement. Two other criminals, Morteza Rafiqdust and Abu-Taleb Ebrahimi, were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Ebrahim Arya and Jamshid Arghand were sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. Three other convicts, Seyyed Mohammad Sa'id Majidi Tehrani, Rahim Bakhtiari and Khosrow Vaseqi were sentenced to payment of heavy fine.

Paper Views Congress Discussion on Students, 'Duties'

NC1911184095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Nov 95 pp 1, 2, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who are trying to prove that the religious system lacks the necessary efficiency and legitimacy are trying to create a liberal democratic rule which is void of religion and of religious values.

Engineer Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Tehran deputy and member of the Majles board of directors stated this on Thursday [2 November] on the second day of the Congress entitled "Students and Their Duties in the Era of Reconstruction" which was sponsored by the Islamic Society of Students.

He added: Putting forth the issue of separating religion from politics, restricting the role of religion, and saying that religion does not offer a program for the management of a rule and that a religious rule is not efficient—issues which are recently being uttered by intellectuals in the Majles—only pursue specific objectives. Therefore, it is necessary to organize debates and discussions in order to clarify issues and to hear what the other side has to say.

Eng. Bahonar then discussed the efforts by a certain process to propagate secularist views and said: Some people divide society into several groups and say that some people are interested in sports, others in culture, some in science, and some in religious issues and that the rule should be able to cover all these interests.

Continuing on the same topic, he said: There are no problems up to this point. They say that next to the various groups, there are also those that are interested in political activities and that they should be granted the opportunity to carry out such activities. They add that there is no need for all strata and groups in society to be political. In short, they say that politics should be in the hands of politicians and the rest of the people should continue with their lives. This is secularism.

Eng. Bahonar added: The Islamic society and the esteemed leader believe that all people, and especially the strata that are capable, should be political in character. It is on this basis that the esteemed leader insists that the students should have an understanding of politics and be capable of carrying out political analysis.

He added: Of course, political activities are different from politicking, since political activities constitute a sacred act, while politicking is disagreeable.

Eng. Bahonar said: Those who transform political activities into politicking exploit the low level of information that their audience has and, instead of elevating the people's political zeal, they try to stupefy public opinion.

In conclusion, the Tehran people's deputy listed examples of the Islamic system's efficiency in the political and economic fields, and in war and defense issues. Stressing the need for politicizing the students, he said: Favorable grounds for the exchange of thoughts and ideas should be created so that differences of views can be expressed in two-sided discussions.

In continuation of the congress, a roundtable discussion with the participation of Eng. Bahonar; Eng. Hoseyn Mohammadi, deputy director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Dr. 'Ali 'Abbaspur, Tehran people's deputy, was held and questions asked by the students were answered.

In a question on the need for the presence of the clergymen in executive affairs, Dr. 'Abbaspur said: The effectiveness of the clergymen's presence has been proven throughout the revolution. This presence is a basic and vital need for the continuation of the Islamic Revolution. Today we need the presence of the clergymen in the executive scene more than ever before.

He added: Since the enemy has seen the role played by clerics in the various scenes throughout the post-revolutionary years, it is trying to instill doubts and to say that the presence of the clergymen in executive affairs is not necessary.

Then Eng. Mohammadi, one of the Muslims students following the line of the Imam, said on the intention behind the occupation of the den of spies [the U.S. Embassy] and its outcome: At that time, his eminence the imam stated that all our shouts should be aimed at the United States. Meanwhile, [the United States] had granted asylum to the shah on its territory. Another factor was the meeting between the head of the interim government and a cabinet member with the U.S. president's security adviser. All these made the students realize their duty to occupy the U.S. Embassy in order to express the legitimate demands of the people. The imam supported this act and named it the second revolution.

Commenting on the outcome of this move, he said: The occupation of the U.S. den of spies was coupled with some important messages:

1. It helped to boost the neither East nor West principle of the revolution, which had partly started to fade away; 2. It shattered the superpower tale of the United States and neutralized the plots that had been hatched at that juncture—such as dissolving the Council of Experts of the Constitution—by revealing U.S. Embassy documents;

3. The radical leftist process at home was disarmed with this move and many of the deviatory faces at home were uncovered and arrested;
4. The documents that were seized from the U.S. Embassy were an asset as far as learning the methods and ploys that were used by the United States in its enmity was concerned;
5. It strengthened the atmosphere in the universities for the forces that believed in Islam and it helped to decrease the weight of deviatory slogans.

In answer to a question on Dr. Sorush, Eng. Bahonar said: Mr. Sorush believes that religion has no program and that it deals with moral and legal issues! It is not clear what has made him define this idea about religion!!

In other remarks, Eng. Bahonar said: Next to these discussions, we also hear discussions about the velayat-e faqih [supreme jurisconsult]. However, we should know that the velayat-e faqih is the strongest pillar on which the Islamic Revolution and system have set up camp. The velayat-e faqih is a valuable heritage left behind by the Imam. Since the time when the enemy realized the significance of this issue, it has been trying to destroy sincere belief in this. And this is why the enemy always aims its shots at this issue.

He added: Some demagogic words are sometimes uttered. The dignity of the velayat-e faqih is above these words. [They say] that he should not interfere in executive affairs. They justify this by saying that clerics can enjoy more respect if it has nothing to do with executive affairs!

Commenting on a way to confront Dr. Sorush's thoughts, Bahonar said: I think that in the university there are alert and outstanding scholars, as well as students who are well-versed in various topics and they can give an answer to Dr. Sorush. Unfortunately, despite their [the students'] readiness [for a debate], he has always evaded a confrontation with university elements.

Also, the Hezbollahi students have dozens of questions that are going unanswered and Dr. Sorush is apparently unwilling to answer them in polite debates and discussions!

Rejecting the need for physical confrontations and for rows in the university, Eng. Bahonar said: Intellectual thoughts should be confronted with intellectual discussions, and a physical confrontation is not the right thing to do. On the other hand, the system's tribunes cannot be placed at the disposal of those who want to blackmail, to create a commotion, and to upset the roots of the people's beliefs.

In answer to a question on the objective of the technocrats and liberals in the fifth term elections of the Majles, Dr. 'Abbaspur said: These processes are pursuing three major objectives:

1. They believe that economic progress and the solution of problems should be achieved through the establishment of relations with the United States. This is something that has been done in many countries and has not yielded any results. Therefore, they are only entertaining empty thoughts.

2. In the field of development plans, they believe in economic growth without taking social justice into consideration. However, we believe that the burden of the revolution is on the shoulders of the deprived people and that the implementation of economic policies without taking social justice into consideration inflicts blows on the low-income strata. Therefore, this is not an acceptable plan which can promise social justice.

3. The third objective of the liberals is to push the clerics out of the executive scene, with the eventual goal of separating religion from policy.

He also spoke about the need for the existence of Islamic formations in the universities and said: In the same way that society needs the existence of various parties, the universities should also have various political formations so that various views can be exchanged.

In an answer on whether the students who followed the imam's line and occupied the den of spies continue to follow the same line or not, Eng. Hoseyn Mohammadi said: The imam's line has a series of principles and criteria. Anyone who claims to be following this line should bear these principles in mind.

He said: The creation of a religious rule based on Islamic values and headed by the velayat-e faqih was the most important step that the imam took. Now we should see what the stand of those who claim to follow the imam's line is on this heritage that we have of the imam.

Eng. Mohammadi stated that some domestic elements are constantly stating in their newspapers and publications that the revolution and the system have distracted from the imam's line. This is a clear example of following the foreign enemy and giving the enemy material to chew on.

Then Eng. Bahonar spoke about ways to confront inflation and to solve economic problems and said: In order to achieve economic balance, supply and demand of goods and services in the country should be balanced. In comparison with the pro-revolution years, the country's income has dropped from $22 billion to $13 billion and oil exports have decreased to half. However, the population has doubled and the dollar's purchasing power has dropped to one-tenth of what it was in 1353 [1974].

He added: The government took great steps during the First Plan to decrease our dependence and to achieve self-sufficiency. For example, in comparison with 1368 [1989] when we needed $15 billion in foreign exchange for imports to meet the country's needs, today we are receiving about $8 billion [foreign exchange income] for imports while the government's record in the field of reconstruction, development, progress, and social justice is unprecedented in the past 300 years of Iranian history.

He added: In order to achieve an economic balance, we should increase work consciousness and production and introduce economic discipline in order to decrease costs.

At the end of the roundtable discussion, Dr. 'Abbaspur spoke about the political activities of the Free Islamic University students and said: A circular on the basis of the regulations of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council has been sent to all the units; and if one of the units does not act according to the circular, it will be violating the law.

He also spoke about the Islamic Association of Academicians and said: The members of this association are professors and members of the universities' scientific board. Their goal is to carry out cultural and political activities in order to fulfill the system's objectives.

In continuation of the congress which was held on Thursday afternoon at the 'Allameh Amini Hall of Tehran University, Eng. Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, head of the Majles economic, financial, and cooperatives commission spoke about the "Islamic Revolution and Economic sanctions."

In explaining the country's economic situation before the victory of the Islamic Revolution and before the implementation of the First Five-Year Plan, he referred to the objectives behind the United States' economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: The economic problems which we faced in the past and our economic dependence abroad had increased the enemy's greed to inflict harm on our system by introducing economic sanctions.

He added: the United States intended to place our nation under pressure in a bid to create public dissatisfaction in the country which would. In turn, this would lead to public protests that would place the Islamic system under pressure and, ultimately harm the country's stability and tranquility.

Eng. Nabavi attributed the increase in U.S. pressures on Iran to the fact that the system of the Islamic Republic is faithful to Islamic and revolutionary principles and values and rejects compromise with arrogance. He said: While some people want to instill the thoughts through rumor-mongering that the Islamic Republic has reviewed its values and wants to come closer to the West and to the United States, this move by the United States (the economic sanctions) has proven the United States' strong hatred toward us. Had the Islamic Republic of Iran shown the least bit of flexibility, the United States would definitely not have confronted it so harshly.

Referring to the defeat of the U.S. economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: the United States hoped that with the imposition of the economic sanctions and pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the rest of the Western countries would cooperate with it. In view of the changes that have taken place in the economic infrastructures in our country, these sanctions were defeated and countries like Germany, Japan, and France did not answer positively to the United States' call for sanctions.

Tehran's people's deputy in the Majles recalled: With the cancellation of the oil cooperation agreement with the U.S. company Conoco, France's Total Company moved in and Western companies purchased oil from Iran. This was actually a scourge on the United States and the outcome of the sanctions that the United States had imposed on us.

He said: the United States' economic sanctions made the Iranian people fight against the United States more strongly. The esteemed leader of the revolution welcomed these sanctions and warned that the country's dependence on oil should end. Following this warning, the officials—supported by the people—started serious efforts to implement what the leader had said.

Eng. Nabavi recalled: The system of the Islamic Republic of Iran has reached such a point of power and economic ability that all of the United States' friends have reached the conclusion that the economic sanctions against Iran was an idiotic decision.

He said: Usually economic sanctions are imposed in order to fight opponents. When everyone admits the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this only shows that an immense blow has been inflicted on the United States' prestige.

In another part of his speech, Eng. Nabavi referred to the foreigners' analyses on the upcoming Majles elections and said: A research institution in London anticipates that most of the winners in Iran's upcoming elections will be non-ideological people. Certain people inside the country who are neglectful toward Islamic and revolutionary values have been encouraged by such analyses and are trying to gain the people's votes by resorting to mundane slogans.

Tehran's people's deputy in the Majles also commemorated 13 Aban (the national day of struggle against world arrogance) [the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy] and said: By keeping 13 Aban alive, the Islamic Revolution's antiarrogant movement adopts a new face.

During congress, Dr. Hasan Ghafuri-Fard, secretary general of the Islamic Society of Engineers delivered a speech and referred to U.S. pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: The problems that international arrogance led by the United States imposed on us after the victory of the Islamic Revolution show that the United States is trying to prevent the export of the revolution.

He said: In order to maintain our political independence, we should achieve economic independence and not rely on foreigners.

Dr. Ghafuri-Fard recalled: Western countries have made extensive changes in the way they use oil and energy so that the strategic value of oil will decrease. It is in light of these problems that the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to establish an economy not based on oil.

He added: With the esteemed leader's directives, the officials of the Islamic Republic are spending a large part of the oil income for infrastructural investments.

Also, Eng. Hashem-Rahbari, Tehran's people's deputy in the Majles condemned the murmurs of compromise with the United States and said: Those who think that our problems will be solved by coming to terms with the United States are mistaken. He said: We believe that the United States is indebted to the Iranian nation, and it is our people's right to regain what the United States owes it.

He said that the grandeur of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world stems from its steadfastness to Islamic principles and values and from following the supreme jurisconsult. He said: Thanks to Islamic beliefs, popular supports for the system, obedience to the velayat-e faqiu, and the president's positive steps in the world, we have gained grandeur and the Islamic Republic system has effectively found a special place in the hearts of nations and on the international scene.

Eng. Rahbari recalled: The Islamic Republic of Iran has the power to build ideas and to chart courses in the world. This is a great power which allows us to confront U.S. diktats.

He also underlined the struggle against the United States and arrogance and said: We should always be in the process of a struggle with world arrogance led by the United States. The economic sanctions and pressures on the Islamic Republic also stem from our resistance vis-a-vis the United States' bullying.

In the concluding session of the seminar, Asadollah Badamchian, executive secretary of the Islamic Coalition Association said: Now we are at the outset of the construction of the first Islamic civilization. In order to build this civilization, the holding of student gatherings aimed at elevating the students' level of alertness is very important and useful.

He said: The students should heed the esteemed leader's directives on identifying the enemy's plots against clerics and its plots for weakening the bases of the system.

Mr. Badamchian stated that we are in the process of a struggle against the United States and told the students: Keep the spirit of anti- arrogance alive in you. Tolerate difficulties in the path of God and know that tolerating such difficulties will bring you honor.

He also referred to the fresh plot by arrogance and said: Some people in the universities put forth the idea that we have clergymen, but we do not have a religious rule. Their true intention is to strike at the velayat-e faqih and at Islamic principles and values.

Badamchian said: Concerning the elections, they say that the clergymen should not go to the Majles and that experts should be voted to the Majles. Many of our clergymen are experts, and as an example we can refer to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Dorri- Najafabadi who is an outstanding economic expert.

He said: People who lack the necessary competence are trying to carry out unofficial election campaigns. We should try to send people who have a revolutionary record, who are committed, and who are well known to the political organs to the Majles.

'Power Outage' During Congress

NC1911135595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Nov 95 p 4

[Unattributed report entitled "Power Outage" under the rubric "On the Sidelines of the Student Congress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the "Congress on Students and Their Responsibilities in the Era of Reconstruction" organized by the Islamic Society of Students at Tehran University, there was a power outage at the central library building, which houses the 'Allameh Amini Hall where the congress was being held. The hall was plunged into darkness, and efforts to restore the electricity were in vain.

The secretary of the congress told our correspondent: Minutes after Eng. Bahonar had started to speak, there was a power outage. When the matter was followed up, we realized that the electricity was cut off for major repairs on the orders of university officials. We were informed that the outage would last until Thursday [2 November] afternoon when the congress was to end!

He said: The university's public relations office had been informed about the congress four weeks in advance, and we had not been told that repairs were to take place during the congress. Also, the university electricians said that the emergency generator was also out of order. Frankly speaking, the question that arises is: When the university rector is incapable of lighting the flame for a congress, how can he light the flame of learning and knowledge?!

He added: There were such monopolistic attitudes before and such attitudes still exist. Some people want to resort to means other than physical confrontation in challenging student movements.

The secretary of the congress also said: After the outage, we tried to contact all the university officlas. But unfortunately none of them were available. What is questionable here is that only the electricty in the library and the hall were cut off—showing that all this was previously planned. Although the hall has an audio system that can be used in cases of emergency, it took one hour to make this system operational; and even then its output was of very poor quality. Fortunately, despite the darkness, more than 1,200 morning and afternoon students attended the congress, and the outage did not affect our program as such. With lit candles and with their continued presence, the students followed the congress programs, something that proves the extent of their alertness.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Denies Pressure by Baghdad

95AE0072A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Aug 95 p 10

[Letter by Hosein Abedini, Mojahedin-e Khalq press spokesman: "Iraq Has Not Harassed Us, We Do Not Interfere in Its Internal Affairs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the Editor in Chief of AL-MAJALLAH magazine:

AL-MAJALLAH published in issue 805 an article by Ali Nurizadeh about the Iranian resistance's relations with Iraq. From beginning to end, the article contained nothing but the lies of the mullahs' regime against the just resistance of the Iranian people.

It behooves us, above all, to express our sadness that the mullahs' lies and fabrications have been repeated—lies that their intelligence and propaganda agencies fabricated and which Nurizadeh, known for his obvious close ties and friendships with the mullahs of Qom and Tehran, then repeats.

The points he included in his article about the Iranian resistance's relations with Iraq are essentially the same points as were published recently by the mullahs' Ministry of Information and their propaganda agencies and that were also published by the regime's newspapers. The Iranian resistance has explained its position toward these lies.

Instead of embarking on a detailed reply, one should look for the recent events and developments that have led the mullahs' regime to repeat these lies through its official news media and through certain writers.

Merely to indicate examples of the lies contained in the article, we say:

—It is an utter and total lie that 2,000 National Liberation Army fighters were moved from border areas to the Iraqi interior. No change or movement of the camps and the central or tactical bases of the Liberation Army has occurred.

—There is absolutely no truth to any change in the programs of Sawt Mujahid radio or Surat al-Muqawamah television. All stations are still broadcasting their programs to the various parts of Iran as usual.

—It is not true that Mojahedin members who have refugee travel documents from European countries have been asked to leave Iraq. Quite the contrary: the pattern of enlistment in the Liberation Army by Iranian volunteers from the European countries continues.

It is a well-known fact that thousands of Iranian students and exiles who were living in Europe and the United States have joined the Liberation Army and are preparing to overthrow the mullahs' regime together with their brothers and sisters who came from inside Iran to carry out this exalted purpose.

—The members of the Iranian resistance's National Council are going to Iraq and on to other countries as usual, without any problems or obstacles. Everything the article said about this area was pure imagination.

—As for involvement by the Mojahedin and National Liberation Army in Iraqi internal affairs, the writer has carried out the mission the mullahs entrusted to him. Everything he said about the subject involved lies and slander and should be considered as part of the reports first published by the mullahs' Ministry of Information.

The Mojahedin have denied and disproved them dozens of times.

The mission of the Iranian National Liberation Army is limited to overthrowing the mullahs' regime and helping the Iranian people. It sees no other mission for itself.

—What the article said about the Iranian resistance's relations with Iraq also was totally contrary to the facts. No change has taken place in the relations of the resistance with Iraq. Iraqi officials have also declared as much in the Iraqi press many times. For example, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister, Tariq 'Aziz, announced on 2 June in an interview with Agence France Presse that Iraq had rejected an Iranian demand to hand over Mas'ud Rajavi. He declared that Mas'ud was present as a guest in Iraq and that Tehran would have to "find another solution."

So we need merely say that there is absolutely no truth in the reports and information that the writer of the article included about the Mojahedin and the Iranian resistance from his own sources. They are utter and total lies.

[Signed] Hosein Abedini
Press Spokesman, Mojahedin-e Khalq, London

Pakistan

Minister Comments on Egyptian Embassy Blast

BK2111145895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] has started helicopter service from Lahore to Sialkot and from Sialkot to Islamabad routes from today. The defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, inaugurated the service in Lahore this morning.

Later, talking to newsmen, he said Pakistan is fully capable to deal with any situation which threatens its security internally and externally. He said Pakistan wanted peaceful settlement of disputes with its neighbors, including situations in occupied Kashmir and in Afghanistan. He said people of Afghanistan and Kashmir will have to be taken into confidence for resolving these issues.

About explosion at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, he said a thorough investigation is being made and action will be taken in line with the findings of the authorities concerned.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at Lahore airport, he said a high-ranking joint investigation team from Pakistan and Egypt assisted by the American investigators is involved in the investigation of the incident.

Further on Minister's Comments

BK2211053595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has said Pakistan will not become a theater for international terrorism. Talking to newsmen at a reception hosted by the Bangladesh high commissioner on Armed Forces Day in Islamabad yesterday, he discarded such apprehensions and said the culture of violence in Pakistan is the legacy of the martial law era. The defense minister said an inter-ministerial committee was investigating the bombing at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad.

The blast at the embassy was also condemned by Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad, who also attended the reception.

Chemical From India Said Used in Embassy Blast

BK2111132495 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 21 Nov 95 p 1, 4

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — It has been discovered that a particular type of chemical, which is made only in India, was found in the explosive material used in the explosion at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. Informed sources, quoting the team of experts investigating the blast, said that 400 kilograms of explosive material was used in the blast. According to the sources, initial laboratory tests show that a chemical called "acitic n hide reld" [as received] was in the explosive material. This chemical is also used in the preparation of heroin.

'Activists' Said Arrested After Embassy Attack

BK2211101695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Nov 95 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LAHORE — After bomb blast at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, police from all over the country, have arrested hundreds of leaders and activists affiliated with Sipah-i-Sahaba [SSP], Sipah-i-Muhammad Pakistan [SMP] and Tehrik-i- Jaffaria Pakistan. However, most of them have been house-arrested for 3 months.

SSP leaders, MNA [Member of National Assembly] Maulana Azam Tariq and Ziaur Rehman Farooqi were among the 30 arrested from the provincial metropolis. Both have been remanded to police custody for seven days. According to SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Lahore, the two SSP leaders were arrested from Chnaba House in connection with the November

15 murder of PPP [People's Party of Pakistan] MNA Riaz Hussain Pirzada's father, Shah Nawaz Pirzada at Bahawalpur. Former health minister, Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi was arrested in the same case from his defence residence the other day. It may be recalled that 80-year old Shah Nawaz Pirzada was killed in a Kalashnikov attack at his dera [residence] at Shaikhwaahan on Wednesday [22 November] last. The killers had used a Suzuki jeep to strike and escape. MNA Riaz Hussain Pirzada was on an official visit to America on the day of the incident.

The crackdown at the provincial metropolis started with the arrest of Maulana Azam Tariq Ziaur Rehman Farooqi from Chamba House at around 2.30 am Tuesday. A heavy police contingent led by DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police] Model Town, conducted a raid and arrested them. Later, they were taken to Civil Lines Police Station.

A DSP from Bahawalpur, who accompanied the raiding party, later took the two leaders to Bahawalpur. At least 24 SSP workers were arrested from the city. At least four SMP workers were also taken into custody. Qari Nazir Ahmad of JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema] and Zulqarmin Mehdi of SMP have also been arrested.

At Jhang, local police, accompanied by magistrates, conducted raids and arrested SSP leaders Maulana Alyas Koti, Chiragh Pehlwan, Mohammad Iqbal, Kaleem Aktar, Mohammad Aslam Akhtar and Maulana Mohammad Fazil. Former MNA Nawab Amanullah Sial and President Tehrik-i-Jaffaria (Jhang) Khushhal Khan were also arrested.

At Chiniot, Tehrike Jaffariya Punjab President Qazi Ghulam Murtaza, Syed Saqiain Shah, Haseeb Hassan and Jaffar Ali, SSP leaders Maulana Malik Khalil Ahmad, Maulana Abdul Waris, Ch Saeed Ahmad, Iftikhar Ahmad, Mohammad Younas and Imtiaz Hussain have been arrested and jailed.

At Jhelum, Qari Khiyamud Din, Sohail Anwar, Mohammad Rafeeq and Qari Mohammad Ishaq have been arrested. Raids were being conducted to arrest a treasurer of JUI (Fazlur Rehman group) Hafiz Khalid Mehmood. Failing to find SSP leader, Haji Mohammad Mustaqeem, the police reportedly took his brother and son into custody.

At Sheikhupura, police arrested three leaders of Tehrik-i-Tehrik- Jaffaria, Abbas Naqvi, Ghulam Shabir and Mohammad Shah. Three SSP workers, Jameel Muaviya, Javaid Iqbal and Naseer Ahmad were also arrested.

At Chakwal, police arrested Amir JUI Maulana Abdul Shakoor Naqshbandi, an SSP leader Maulana Yaqoob Nadeem and an SMP leader Maulana Ishaq Najfi. Maulana Abdur Rehman Usmani was arrested from Talla Gung, Latif Muaviya, Khalid Mehmood, Qamar Kathiya, Master Ashraf and two others from Chichawatni, Riaz Hussain Babar, Ghulam Mujtaba, Zulfiqar Ali Mauvi Ismail, Farhat Abbas, Habibullah, Maulana Ghulam Farid, Noor Ahmad and Ghulam Hussain from Dera Ghazi Khan. Majority of them have been put under preventive detention for a period of three months. At Sahiwal, President SSP, Maulana Inamullah Bukhari and 10 others have been arrested and put under detention for a period of ten days at Central Jail. The arrested workers include Qari Abdul Jabbar, Qari Manzoor Ahmad Tahir, Qari Saeed Ahmad, Abdul Latif Muaviya, Qamar Sultan, Mohammad Gull Sher, Shaukat Ali, Master Mohammad Ashraf, Khalid and Habibullah. Raids were also conducted to arrest Qari Mohammad Ahmad Sheri and Maulana Mohammad Shafeeh but they were not available. Police reportedly entered several mosques to arrest the workers.

At Multan, dozens of leader and workers of SSP, SMP and Tehrik- i-Jaffaria were arrested and put under preventive detention for a period of three months. The arrested workers include Maulana Sultan Mehmood, Qari Mohammad Sadiq Anwar, Khan Fiaz Ahmad Khan, Dr Bashir Mohammad Dogar, Asad Abbas Shah, Ghulam Abbas, Tahir Shah, Mujahid Hussain and Mujahid Ahmad.

According to reports, a heavy police contingent, after scaling the boundary walls of Jamiya Farooqiya, Multan, subjected several children to torture getting the address of President SSP (Multan) Qari Sadiq Anwar. The police later broke into his house and arrested him, allegedly pushing him out the house.

At Sargodha, members of several religious organisations announced to hold a demonstration on Wednesday (today) in protest against the arrests. They warned that all the religious parties will stage a joint protest demonstration if the arrested workers were not released till coming Friday.

Raids were being conducted till late on Tuesday night.

Editorial Views Effect of Egyptian Embassy Attack

BK2111140695 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 21 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Bang That Shook Islamabad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A truck load of explosives that went off at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad Saturday [18 November] has sent waves of shock around the world. Not only the scale of tragedy-15 dead and 62 injured-caused grief to the affected families and acute embarrassment to those responsible for protecting the embassy, but the audacity of the attack has caused jitters among the diplomatic community as a whole. Really, the world is still very far from devising an effective method of stopping a suicidal driver carrying huge quantities of combustible material. However, where the security lapse becomes obvious is the inability of the intelligence agencies to keep tabs on the suspected groups within this country. An operation of this nature could not take place without significant local cooperation. To collect at truckload of blast material, and drive it to the heart of capital without being detected is a poor reflection on our system of surveillance. It may also be mentioned that considering the current global situation, the most sensitive foreign mission in Pakistan after the U.S. embassy is that of Egypt. Prudence demanded a greater degree of vigilance around Cairo's representatives especially after we received word from them that some activists of the banned extremist groups of Egypt were harboring in Pakistan. Islamabad appeared to have taken a number of steps to expel these undesirable elements. Probably, these were carried out in a slipshod manner.

The death and injury of people who have done no wrong to the terrorists must he condemned in the strongest terms. It is a foul deed which will bring shame and censure to its perpetrators. The group that claimed responsibility, Jamma Islamiyaa, is involved in armed confrontation with the government in Cairo. There have been frequent bloody clashes between the two sides for the last three years. In recent months, the regime in Egypt reported ebb in the activities of the Jamma as a result of its iron-fisted policy. In response, the targeted group vowed to continue its operations abroad against Egyptian and Western interests. The assassination attempt on President Mubarak in Sudan at the time of African Summit was the work of this group; similarly the blind cleric Sheikh Omar and his followers are alleged to be linked to this group. A week ago, they assassinated a trade official working in the Egyptian Embassy in the Swiss capital. Though more attacks on the personnel and installations of Cairo regime may be attempted by this group, it is hard to see any gains for the perpetrators or their cause through operations where the risk of collateral damage is high. A number of groups in Egypt are not happy with the policies of the Mubarak regime especially in its relations with Israel, attitude to Middle East peace process, its support of U.S. global aims and its alienation from the disadvantaged sections of society. It is not for us to take sides in the matter as only the parties concerned can resolve their differences. But every sensible person is bound to question seriously the wisdom of militant groups in carrying their fight abroad, which is likely to do more harm than good to their objectives. In this case, how the death of eight innocent Pakistanis who had, in all probability, never heard of the group or their antagonism to the Cairo regime, would promote their agenda? On the contrary, they have managed to turn a sizeable section of public opinion in this country against them. To kill so many of Pakistanis for the alleged excesses of Mubarak regime seems senseless barbarism. What makes it all the more outrageous is that innocent Muslim blood has been shed in the name of Islam, for the group vows to set up an Islamic order in Egypt, yet under no circumstances does Islam allow the killing of a person for acts committed by someone else. The only motive seems to be blind hatred and overpowering emotion of revenge, which are against the letter and spirit of Islam.

We have no doubt in our mind that the Western media would seize this opportunity to malign our religion in the eyes of the world. Thus the misguided zealots have tarnished the cause they intended to serve. We are going to hear a great deal about the so-called menace of Islamic fundamentalism from the biased leaders of the West. That what the group has done violates the very basis of Islam will be conveniently ignored by the Western-dominated world media. The group must also understand that it is in their own best interests to keep their conflict from spilling over as ultimately their success will depend on how they mobilise the public in the country of their origin. In the final analysis it is not the firepower of the parties which decides the outcome but the ability to win the hearts and minds of people. That is why in many cases resort to terrorism in political warfare is an admission of defeat. The groups who are not confident of the force of their argument may take up guns for lack of persuasive powers.

As is often pointed out it is easier to be wise after the event. Nevertheless a government which does not learn appropriate lessons from set-backs is likely to fall into the same pit again. Islamabad will have to fundamentally revise its strategy concerning the surveillance and penetration of extremist factions with foreign connections as well as take radically different and even unconventional measures to prevent similar attacks happening again. Just to say you are sorry does not help very much.

The Islamabad tragedy focuses our attention on a dangerously high level of political instability in the Islamic world in general. It stems from the tendencies of the U.S.-led Western alliance to impose unjust solutions on the Muslims. The unrest is fuelled by the practice of a number of ruling Muslim elite to pursue policies which are repugnant to their masses but which promote external agenda. Unfortunately Egypt is not the only country where this is happening. In Pakistan, too the ruling party has failed to gauge the depth of anti-Washington sentiment in the country. It has failed to register the degree of popular resentment against the dictates of IMF and it has little perception how violently opposed an ordinary citizen is to the feudal politics. This is the fertile ground where extremism grows. Wisdom demands that we combat not only the outward manifestation of extremism but also its root causes.

The grieved nation expects the religio-political parties in our country to disassociate themselves from the tactics used by the Egypt-based group. It will not only reassure ordinary citizens but enhance their prestige as well. Violence is becoming a serious threat to our socio-political fabric. All groups should publicly disown it without reservations.

Investigation Into Egyptian Embassy Bomb Reported

BK2211084095 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 21 Nov 95 pp 1, 4, 5

[Report by Asif Shabbir, Mushtaq Minhas, and Tahir Mughal]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned through informed sources that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has ordered Egypt's special intelligence to investigate the bomb explosion at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad and to present the report to him. Three special teams, consisting of Egyptian Armed Forces, special intelligence, and Foreign Ministry officials have arrived in Islamabad from Cairo and have begun investigating the incident. Mubarak and the Egyptian foreign minister had a lengthy phone conversation with the Egyptian ambassador in Pakistan in this regard. They also advised the ambassador to obtain the reports of Pakistani intelligence agencies from the Pakistani Foreign Ministry and to send those to Cairo. President Mubarak has ordered that he be kept informed of the findings.

KHABRAIN has carried out its own investigation into the explosion at the Egyptian Embassy and has learned that Egyptian intelligence sent a report to the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad 10 days ago that advised the Egyptian ambassador that some Egyptian terrorists had entered Pakistan. These terrorists had three goals: to kill Egyptian Ambassador Nauman, to blow up the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, and to hijack an Egyptian airliner. The Egyptian ambassador immediately passed this report to Pakistani Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh, who sent it to the concerned desk at the Foreign Ministry for appropriate action.

The desk officer gave this report to the Interior Ministry deputy secretary. The deputy secretary received it on Thursday, 16 November, but no immediate action was taken because the offices were closed on Friday and Saturday for the weekend. The file was left pending, with action to be taken after the weekend. If timely action had been taken, the culprits responsible for the bomb explosion might have been arrested prior to the incident. The negligence of a deputy secretary at the Interior Ministry led to the destruction of the Egyptian Embassy, as well as to the loss of 17 lives and injuries to 62 people.

It has been learned that the families of Egyptian diplomats are extremely frightened following this incident. Mrs. Lubna Mohammad Ahmed Mustafa, the economic counselor at the Embassy, and the families of other diplomats and officials have decided to return to Egypt. Some of the families left for Egypt on Monday.

KHABRAIN has learned through its investigation that the Egyptian ambassador came to his office at 1030 on the day of the explosion, and the first explosion took place after only 10 minutes. After hearing the first blast, Egyptian Embassy security officials rushed to the ambassador's office and took the ambassador and Economic Counselor Lubna to the safety 'bunker' inside the embassy. Lubna, who was injured and wanted to return to Egypt immediately, was flown to Egypt on Monday.

KHABRAIN has learned that a Suzuki Alto yellow taxi stopped near the embassy gate at 1035. A fashionable woman and a man were sitting in this taxi. A security guard asked the woman driver to park the car away from the gate, but the woman got out of the taxi and went into the visa section. She came back after a while and drove away. After that, a black and yellow Datsun taxi stopped at the gate, and the security guard asked the driver to park away from the building. As soon as the taxi began moving, however, there was an explosion at the embassy gate. This explosion destroyed the visa section, the security room, and the front section of the building; the security guards posted at the front gate were killed. Iqbal Ahmed, Ambassador Nauman's special guard, was sitting on the embassy lawn and shouted for help. In the meantime, a large vehicle with tinted windows entered the embassy, and a powerful explosion destroyed the vehicle and the whole embassy building. The guard was injured and unconscious. According to informed sources, Egyptian intelligence had informed the ambassador again on 18 November that the embassy might be attacked sometime on Sunday, 19 November. Ambassador Nauman passed this information to the Foreign Ministry.

It has been learned that the Egyptian team consists of 14 members. An Egyptian doctor had also come to Pakistan along with the team, but he returned on the flight transporting the dead. The federal interior minister has held the officials of the Interior Ministry responsible for this and has reprimanded them. The interior minister, in a meeting of a special committee, has ordered an inquiry into this criminal neglect of duty. The meeting was chaired by the interior minister, while members of the federal government committee investigating the bomb blast at the Egyptian Embassy also attended.

Committee Chairman Afthar Sultan, the interior secretary, officials of the ISI, intelligence bureau, and FIA [Federal Investigation Agency], and members of the Pakistan Army's Explosives Specialist Wing also attended the meeting. They were told that the Egyptian Government had been informed by Egyptian intelligence and the U.S. CIA that an Egyptian militant group was likely to attack the Egyptian Embassy, its diplomats, or an Egyptian airline in Pakistan. The Egyptian Government advised its embassy in Islamabad about this on 12 November. The ambassador was informed that an attack was likely in the next seven to nine days.

Upon receiving this information, the Egyptian Embassy's second secretary informed the Pakistani Foreign Ministry that some extremist groups might try to attack Egyptian diplomats, the embassy, or an airline, so appropriate measures should be taken for the safety of Egyptian diplomats and aircraft. A copy of the note sent to the Foreign Ministry was also sent to the Interior Ministry. The Foreign Ministry did not take any action on this note. It was still lying in the Foreign Ministry on the day of the explosion. The copy sent to the Interior Ministry was received by the security section officer on 13 November. He passed it to Ilyas M. Mohsin, the additional secretary in charge, on 14 November for urgent action. The additional secretary had not even touched it by 20 November, nor had the Foreign Ministry informed the Interior Ministry regarding this matter.

The Egyptian Government has lodged a protest with the Government of Pakistan because the Pakistani authorities had advance information, and yet no steps were taken for the embassy's security. Pakistan has admitted its negligence and has offered to bear all the costs of rebuilding the embassy. Meanwhile, the Islamabad police are continuing an investigation, in view of the statement by eyewitness Mohammad Iqbal, a special branch constable who was the Egyptian ambassador's security guard. Special security is guarding this man, who miraculously survived the explosion. The investigating team has recorded his statement and prepared sketches of the attackers that will be given to the investigation team coming from Egypt. The 14-member Egyptian team includes military intelligence as well as secret agency officials. Constable Iqbal has said in his statement that a blue van was used in the bombing. Two men were sitting inside the van, who were blown to pieces in the blast. Iqbal said he was by chance sitting near the embassy gate when the explosion occurred. A foreign mission constable was injured in the first blast. Iqbal went to help him, but another blast occurred in the meantime.

It is being said that Iqbal made some startling disclosures, which are being kept secret. It has been learned that the Islamabad Police have obtained important clues regarding the explosion, and the facts will be made public in the next few days.

U.S. Involvement in Probe Criticized

BK2211101595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 95 p 12

[Article by Sami Ullah: "Qazi Criticizes U.S. Role in Blast Probe"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad Nov 21 — Calling Federal Interior Minister Gen [General] (Retired) Naseerullah Babar a "bold spokesman of the U.S. Government," chief of Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] and Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed has criticised the inclusion of U.S. experts in the investigation of explosions in the Egyptian Embassy.

Talking informally to a group of newsmen at the Parliament cafeteria here on Tuesday [21 November], Qazi alleged that Benazir Bhutto-led government, acting as a U.S. puppet, has launched a campaign to give the impression as if religious parties were getting united to create an atmosphere favourable for an undemocratic change in the country. "It was a move backed by Zionist lobbies who wanted to create Egypt, Algeria-like situation in Pakistan," he added.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed alleged the Arabs who had come to attend Tablighi Ijtama in Lahore were interrogaed unnecessarily by the authorities. Not only this but now the authorities were considering to put a ban on Dars-i-Quran in armed forces on the pretext of the act of some army officials. He was pointing towards the abortive coup attempt.

Responding to a query about the explosion in Egyptian Embassy, Qazi Hussain Ahmed said this act was a reaction to the domestic policies being pursued by Egyptian rulers. He criticised the government of Husni Mubarak and said it was a strange type of government which was hunting its own citizens all over the world.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed said "We condemn the acts of terrorism but before making any conclusion one must keep in mind the situation prevailing in Egypt". He said only in five minutes 31 innocent Muslims were sentenced to death by Military Court there. "When people are tortured, put behind the bars for unlimited time only because of being true Muslims and not allowed to hold meetings, rallies and even contest elections, this kind of reaction was no big deal", Qazi Sahib added.

The JI chief criticised the government for signing an extradition treaty with Egypt and said what was the need for entering into such an agreement with a country which was facing great internal turmoil. "This extradition treaty was signed only to please U.S. masters," he said.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed said U.S. involvement in our internal affairs was alarming. "On the pretext of arresting the assassins of two Americans killed in Karachi, FBI offices have been set up all over the country, our economy is being controlled through IMF and World Bank and now inclusion of United States in Egyptian Embassy blast probe has raised the concern of every patriotic Pakistani", he added.

He lashed out at Gen Babar and said his statement about International University was an irresponsible one and would create distance between Muslim brothers.

Responding to a query he said JI wanted enforcement of 1973 Constitution in its true spirit. Elaborating, he said we wanted implementation of recommendation of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII).

Civil Work at PRC-Aided Nuclear Plant Completed

BK2111083295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chashma Nuclear Power plant today crossed a milestone in its construction with the placement of a huge of 184-tonnes steel made dome on the reactor building. This marks the completion of major civil work at the 300-megawatt power plant. Expected to be completed by 1999, the power project will cater to the ever increasing demand of electricity in the country. After completion of the main civil work, the installation of equipment is being started.

The Chasma Nuclear Power plant is being set up with the cooperation of China and it also involves the first ever export of nuclear power plant by China to any country. The ceremony of placement of a dome was attended by the president of Chashma Nuclear National Corporation, Mr. (Jeng Huanghing), and the federal minister for food and agriculture, Mr. Yusuf Talpur.

Ali To Visit Saudi Arabia To Discuss Afghanistan

BK2211010695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who is to leave for Saudi Arabia for consultations on the Afghan issue, has said Pakistan believes there should be an agreement among the Afghan factions to establish a nonpartisan government so that peace can be restored in their country. He said in Islamabad this evening that the demilitarization of Kabul, the deployment of a neutral security force in the city and the avoidance of bloodshed are imperatives for the solution of the Afghan crisis.

The foreign minister said during his meeting with Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal he will present Pakistan's standpoint on Afghanistan. He said Pakistan is convinced that the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan will never accept any agreement that is imposed from the outside and, therefore, Pakistan remains toally neutral. The foreign minister regretted that some forces had failed to maintain neutrality on the Afghan situation resulting in the instability that has impeded the reconciliation process. He said Pakistan has suffered because of this instability at a time when it is trying to eliminate gun running and narcotics smuggling, and controlling the law and order situation resulting from the long years of conflict in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister said Pakistan wants lasting peace in Afghanistan and it supports the efforts of the United Nations and Islamic Conference Organization on this.

Opposition Workers Attack Courts, Damage Property

BK1811135095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a press release of Islamabad police, around 50-60 people led by Senator Chaudhary Shujat Hussain [of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group] and MNA [Member of National Assembly] Malik Lal Hussain came to the District Kachahri [Court], Islamabad, at 1030 this morning. They went on a rampage in the courts of three magistrates sitting in the kachahri. They broke windowpanes and damaged typewriters, telephone sets, and furniture. They threw out the official record of the court, carrying some of it with them. Islamabad police have registered a case against these people and some of them have been arrested. Police parties have been sent for the arrest of others.

Police Said To Torture 'Key Opposition Figure'

BK1811140195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 18 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 18 (AFP) — The Pakistani opposition here Saturday [18 November] accused police of torturing a key opposition figure, Shahbaz Sharif, who has been arrested in a case involving charges of financial fraud.

Shahbaz, brother of national opposition leader and former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, was taken in by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) when he returned home on November 4 after 15 months in London.

The secretary general of the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) said "Shahbaz Sharif has been subjected to torture," adding "it is part of the vindictive politics of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto."

Sartaj Aziz, who was speaking at a news conference here, said the opposition held Bhutto responsible for the "police brutality" against Shahbaz and it would take the matter to a court.

Another opposition leader, Chadhury Shujat Hussain, said police attacked with batons some 200 opposition workers while they were holding a "peaceful" demonstration here Saturday against police "manhandling" of Shahbaz. About a dozen partymen were arrested, he added.

Shahbaz, leader of the opposition in Punjab province assembly, has been charged with securing bank loan unlawfully to build up the industrial assets of the Sharif family while his brother was in power.

Nawaz Sharif was chief minister in Punjab for several years before he became prime minister in November 1990. He resigned in 1993 under pressure of a political crisis caused by a power tussle with then president Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Bitter confrontation has clouded relations between the Sharif-led opposition and the Bhutto government since she returned to power in the October 1993 general election.

The PML is currently engaged in organizing public meetings in Punjab in preparation for a full-blooded mass mobilization campaign with the aim of forcing mid-term polls.

University Rector Defends Students' Qualifications

BK2111142595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rector of International Islamic University, Malik Meraj Khaled, has said the university gives admission to only genuine and security cleared students. He was clarifying reports appearing in the press regarding the university at a news conference in Islamabad today. He said the Islamic University is imparting balanced Islamic education to ensure moderation, balance, and prudence in the religious attitude of the people.

Details on Force, Strength of Navy Reported

BK2111143495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Nov 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Nov 20 (APP) — Pakistan Navy Monday [20 November] underlined the need of "surface ships" saying that modernisation of the naval force could not be accomplished without obtaining the surface ships.

Briefing the newsmen this morning, the Pakistan Navy spokesman said in the modern era, surface ships play a very significant role and its absence was a handicap factor for the sea force.

He said Pakistan Navy was a "very good combat force," but its strength could be enhanced manifold if the provision of surface ships was made to it.

He said Pakistan Navy was a "very good combat force," but its strength could be enhanced manifold if the provision of surface ship was made to it. Recalling the return of 9 ships to the USA, the spokesman said Pakistan Navy in coordination with the government tried to balance its force, with the help of friendly countries. However, he conceded that it was a "crisis period" for the Pakistan Navy, but with the blessings of Almighty Allah "we over come it successfully." Lot of efforts have been made to fill-in the gap and the short comings were met, but there was still a lot of ground to be covered, the spokesman added. The "briefing" was arranged in connection with the "SEASPARK-95" the 14th Naval exercise which began Nov 18. The Navy spokesman was highly indebted to the government for the interest taken by it for overcoming the shortcomings. He said government is extending all the support to Pakistan's sea force and "we are greatly indebted to it." The acquisition of "surface ships" is high on the agenda of the government and added the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) has already approved the Navy demand. Replying a question, the spokesman said presently the matter is pending with the Finance Ministry. The Navy spokesman said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has shown keen interest in the modernisation of the country's naval force and "we are confident for the final approval by the Prime Minister.

The spokesman said "transfer of technology is one of the preconditions for any naval purchase and added the acquisition of French submarines is a part of this deal.

Pakistan Naval personnel were fully competent and capable of adopting modern technology.

They have proved their potential in the past, he added.

Talking about "Submarine", the spokesman said five of the six submarine were participating in the "SEA-SPARK" while only six of the fourteen operational submarines of India participated in the naval exercises.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said India's Navy is a "big fleet" but the modern wars were not fought on the strength of its fleet.

The motivation, high morale, outstanding courage and zealousness are the "real strength" for any combat force, the spokesman added.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said the "submarine" pays a very important role during blockades and cited the example of the recent "Gulf War" and said it was a "Naval Blockade" which broke the back of the enemy.

With the transfer of technology from France, the spokesman said Pakistan's Navy will become technology of the submarine.

He recalled the 1971 Indo-Pak war and said the Navy submarine's performance was "excellent".

Submarine Ghazi had put up a "specular show" during 1971 when it laid "mines" in the enemy's territory which later sank an Indian Navy ship, he added.

Answering a question, he said the French submarines will soon be commissioned in the Pakistan Navy.

Answering a question about purchases from the friendly country, China, the spokesman said, Chinese surface ships are quite good and Pakistan Navy is even prepared to bear first three installments if a deal is struck with China.

For four "surface ships" from China, the spokesman said it costs only 625 million U.S. dollars along with "the transfer of technology".

Lauding the Chinese frigates, the spokesman said it were good both quality and cost wise. Pakistan Navy is operating Chinese ships for the last two decades and added "NASAR" was built in China.

Discussing "Marine Force", the Navy spokesman said the "Marine Force" is now a vital component of any combat force these days and it could not be ignored. It is a highly trained force containing all the main installations of Pakistan Navy, he added. He said it was the total responsibility of the "Marine Force" to guard the country's shores. The introduction of "Marine Force" into Pakistan Navy has opened a new leaf in the history of the country, the spokesman added.

It started on a small note, but its area of operation is now spread to all over Pakistan, the spokesman said. All the security arrangements were now beefed up by the "Marine Force" and its strength lies in its future development.

Answering a question about modernisation, the Naval spokesman said the submarine force has always endeavoured to keep itself abreast with the advancing technologies in the modern warfare in pursuance of this goal, all our submarines have been equipped with the latest weapon system.

These features afford us a dominant edge over the adversary. We are capable of over the horizon diction and targetting now, the spokesman concluded.

Sri Lanka

Minister Appeals for Public, Media 'Restraint'

BK1711132295 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 17 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government yesterday appealed to the public and the media to act with responsibility and restraint in the coming days and help in the maintenance of peace in the country.

Cabinet spokesman Media Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake who conveyed the government's view to media personnel at yesterday's weekly press briefing commended the public and the media for their conduct so far.

"We must see that no untoward incident takes place," Mr. Senanayake said.

He said the Sinhala people should desist from suspecting every Tamil person to be a Tiger.

"All Tamils are not Tigers", he said.

Mr. Senanayake told the media that even during a crisis like the present one, democratic freedoms should be upheld and maintained. Things that led to their erosion should not be allowed to happen.

He said a report carried by the BBC which misquoted Deputy Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte's remark is being investigated.

The BBC correspondent who was present said the mistake was in fact made by the local media.

Mr. Senanayaka said he had protested to the British High Commissioner about the report and added that they were investigating how that mistake had occurred.

Troops Reportedly Continue Advance Into Jaffna

BK2211112595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine] who entered Jaffna city on Monday [20 November] have advanced two and a half kilometers from the border areas of Nallur. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were resisting with mortar attacks. However, artillery fire by the security forces have reportedly neutralized Tiger mortar positions. A large number of buildings had been booby-trapped by the LTTE. The terrorists are destroying private and public property as they withdraw from Jaffna. Sixteen soldiers suffered injuries in action yesterday.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0940 GMT on 22 Nov 95 in a Colombo dateline item adds the following: "Sri Lankan troops backed by tanks and artillery Wednesday penetrated Tamil Tiger defences and captured a key highway to tighten the noose on the rebel citadel of Jaffna, officials said.

["Thousands of soldiers advanced under the cover of darkness and seized more territory on the eastern edge of Jaffna town, as army engineers went from house to house defusing bombs planted by the guerrillas, a spokesman said. Troops were digging in at Nallur within the town limits and nearby Thirunelvi after their spectacular entry on Monday into Jaffna, which has been controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since 1990.

["Military officials said the army was strategically located to prevent LTTE guerrillas from slipping in and out of Jaffna town following the capture of the Jaffna-Kandy highway linking it with the rest of the peninsula. A military spokesman said one soldier died and 25 others were wounded in overnight fighting, raising army casualties in the sweeping military offensive begun on October 17 to just over 300 troops killed and some 2,000 wounded. Soldiers killed at least 45 guerrillas and wounded 100 more in pre-dawn close-quarter battles Wednesday, the spokesman said. Military figures show that more than 1,650 rebels have died in the latest drive.

["The army's takeover of the highway on Wednesday came after troops opened a new flank on Tuesday aimed at eventually laying siege to the town, still mainly controlled by the Tigers. In a statement issued from its London office, the LTTE said it had given land to thousands of Tamil civilians who fled the fighting in Jaffna and sought refuge in Vanni, to the south of the peninsula.

["'In response to the call of the LTTE quite a large number of people have moved to the Vanni and started tilling their allotted land. Evidently they have started living leading a normal, healthy and profitable life,' it said. The LTTE statement discounted claims by international relief agencies that the refugee situation could deteriorate and calls by non-governmental organisations for enhanced foreign assistance to the displaced civilians."]

LTTE Press Releases Describe Military Situation

Reports on Refusal to Foreign Doctors

BK1711134195 (Internet) soc.culture.tamil in English 14 Nov 95

["Press release" issued by the LTTE Political Committee at "LTTE Headquarters" on 13 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Foreign Doctors Refused Permission To Go to North

A team of specialist doctors from France and Holland have been refused permission by the Sri Lankan [S.L.] Joint Operations Command to board a Red Cross charter vessel bound for Jaffna. Although they had obtained permission from the government in Colombo, they have been prevented from reaching the Tamil areas to assist the health services there.

11 STF [Special Task Force] Commandos Killed in LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Ambush in the East

At 3.30 p.m. on 11/11/95 the LTTE forces intercepted a column of the Sri Lankan Special Task Force, patrolling near Vellaveli in Batticaloa in the East. In the battle that followed 11 STF members including an officer were killed and several weapons were captured. The attack took place only 700 m [meters] outside the camp and lasted for over 20 minutes. One LTTE fighter attained martyrdom in the battle.

A Police Station Raided in Trincomallee

In Trincomallee district, the Atruruwa Police station was attacked by the LTTE. The attack took place on 11/11/95 shortly after midnight. The Atruruwa Police station is located between Mahindapuram and Sanga Nagar towns. The Police fled the station as soon as the LTTE launched its attack. Several weapons were captured in the raid. No one was killed in the fire fight.

S.L. Forces Destroyed Tamil Properties Crazenly

The Sri Lankan forces are destroying properties belonging to Tamils who fled the Valikamam area. Bulldozing of houses in areas under their control is rampant. Heavy shelling of residential areas has resulted in widespread destruction of properties. As most civilians had already fled the area, casualty levels during this widespread shelling has been low.

[Signed] Political Committee,

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(English translation of the LTTE statement released by LTTE international secretariat, 211 Katherine Road, London E6 IBU, United Kingdom, Tel/Fax: 0181-470 8593.)

Details 'Heavy' Jaffna Fighting

BK1711152595 (Internet) soc.culture.tamil in English 15 Nov 95

["Press release" issued by the LTTE Political Committee at "LTTE Headquarters" on 14 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Heavy Fighting Continues in Jaffna

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] forces intercepted the Sri Lankan forces at Kondavil and Irupalai yesterday. In the battle that followed a Sri Lankan battle tank was damaged and several soldiers were killed. The fighting broke out when Sri Lankan forces at Kondavil and Kopai Christian College attempted to move towards Jaffna city. Several thousand soldiers were pushing forward with the assistance of battle tanks and armoured vehicles. Seven (7) LTTE fighters were martyred in the battle.

ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] Headquarters Removed From Jaffna

The ICRC head office has been moved to Point Pedro from Jaffna city due to the heavy shelling of Jaffna city by the approaching Sri Lankan forces. The intensive and widespread shelling of the city has rendered it impossible for the ICRC to function with safety.

Jaffna University Shelled

Large scale shelling of the Jaffna city has continued for three days. The University faculty of medicine and several other houses have been damaged. The shells also landed at Thirunelveli, Kokuvil, Parameswara Junction and Nallur. Most of the shells fell in the Jafffna University campus.

Jaffna Hospital Moved to Point Pedro

The Jaffna hospital is being moved to Point Pedro. All staff have been asked to report for work at hospitals near their present homes.

Artillery Shells Directed Towards Displaced People

Vadamaratchi residential areas have been subjected to severe shelling from the Palaly army camp since yesterday. People who moved into the area when displaced from Valikamam a few days ago have had to move further southwards. One eight (8) years old girl was killed and several others injured. Shelling of civilian areas have been conducted systematically every half hour. One (1) young man has been killed at Kaithady due to the shelling and six (6) others have been seriously injured. Shelling also has been directed from Elephant Pass military bases towards Thenmaratchi area. Several shells fell at Tharmakkeni, Eluthumattuval and Thatuvan Kottil. Palai area was hit by shells from Kattaikadu military base. Thenmaratchi is presently the home for about half a million people who have moved from Valikamam.

[Signed] Political Committee,

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(English translation of the LTTE statement released by LTTE international secretariat, 211 Katherine Road, London E6 1BU, United Kingdom, Tel/Fax: 0181-470 8593.)

Describes Condition of Jaffna City

BK1711135395 (Internet) soc.culture.tamil in English 16 Nov 95

["Press release" issued by the LTTE Political Committee at "LTTE Headquarters" on 15 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The Battle for Kondavil Continues for Third Day

The battle for Kondavil and Irupalai continued into its third day. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] forces have kept the Sri Lankan army pinned down at Kondavil and several attempts by the Sri Lankan army to break through have failed. Frustrated, the Sri Lankan forces have unleashed a barrage of artillery and mortar shells towards the Jaffna city. Several thousand troops backed by tanks and armoured vehicles have made very slow progress in their 28th day of the latest offensive to capture Jaffna city. Several soldiers have been killed and injured in the past few days.

Army Artillery Killed a Taxi Driver

The heavy artillery and mortar shelling of Jaffna city has resulted in significant damage to property in Nallur, Kandarmadam, Nallur Kandasamy Kovil area and Kokuvil. The deserted Jaffna city is being pounded so heavily that no part of the city is safe for habitation. One (1) lonely taxi driver who ventured into the city was killed in the shelling yesterday.

Three Fishermen Killed by Army

Three (3) fishermen who were out fishing along the coast in the Jaffna lagoon near Kalmunai on Monday [13 November] were fired upon by the Sri Lankan army. Bodies of two fishermen were recovered off Periya Veli yesterday (14-11-1995). The third body, the boats and fishing equipment have not been recovered yet.

Foreign representatives of the relief organisations functioning in Jaffna peninsula have inspected the makeshift refugee camps in Thenmaratchi. The ICRC's [International Committee of the Red Cross] Dr. Pions, UNHCR's P. Brandt, Dr. Mary from the medical team and Save the Children Fund representative Mr. Patrick visited the centres to directly assess the situation.

[Singed] Political Committee,

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(English translation of the LTTE statement released by LTTE international secretariat, 211 Katherine Road, London E6 1BU, United Kingdom, Tel/Fax: 0181-470 8593.)

Addresses Government Advance to Jaffna

BK1911041595 (Internet) soc.culture.tamil in English 18 Nov 95

["Press release" issued by the LTTE Political Committee at "LTTE Headquarters" on 16 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 14/11/95 the Sri Lankan army shot dead five (5) civilians at Vantharumoolai in Batticaloa in the Eastern Province. This incidence took place during a clash between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] forces and the army.

In their advance towards Jaffna city, for the fifth consecutive day the Sri Lankan army has been bogged down in Kondavil and Irupalai areas. The LTTE forces countered all strenuous attempts by the Sri Lankan forces for the first four days. However field reports indicate that yesterday no major effort was made by the Sri Lankan army to breakout from Kondavil. But heavy shelling of Jaffna city and surrounding areas continued unabated all day.

The Sri Lankan forces are performing large scale land clearance in areas they have captured recently. Bulldozers are being used to clear trees, plantations and village homes leaving flat open barren land. Brick homes and buildings are being demolished with the use of explosives and the occupied areas are beginning to resemble a total waste land to which people can't return.

Despite its widespread propaganda that food supplies of adequate amount are being forwarded to Jaffna for the refugees, the Sri Lankan government has now admitted that it will not be able to send the supplies as assured. The government has utilised the ships, specifically chartered to carry food to the North, for carrying supplies to its troops.

[Signed] Political Committee,

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(English translation of the LTTE statement released by LTTE international secretariat, 211 Katherine Road, London E6 1BU, United Kingdom, Tel/Fax: 0181-470 8593.)

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